

NAME

fork, wait, waitpid – basic process management

SYNOPSIS

```
@load "fork"

pid = fork()

ret = waitpid(pid)

ret = wait();
```

DESCRIPTION

The *fork* extension adds three functions, as follows.

fork() This function creates a new process. The return value is the zero in the child and the process-id number of the child in the parent, or `-1` upon error. In the latter case, **ERRNO** indicates the problem. In the child, **PROCINFO["pid"]** and **PROCINFO["ppid"]** are updated to reflect the correct values.

waitpid()

This function takes a numeric argument, which is the process-id to wait for. The return value is that of the *waitpid(2)* system call.

wait() This function waits for the first child to die. The return value is that of the *wait(2)* system call.

BUGS

There is no corresponding **exec()** function.

The interfaces could be enhanced to provide more facilities, including pulling out the various bits of the return status.

EXAMPLE

```
@load "fork"
...
if ((pid = fork()) == 0)
    print "hello from the child"
else
    print "hello from the parent"
```

SEE ALSO

GAWK: Effective AWK Programming, *filefuncs(3am)*, *fnmatch(3am)*, *inplace(3am)*, *ordchr(3am)*, *read-dir(3am)*, *readfile(3am)*, *revoutput(3am)*, *rvarray(3am)*, *time(3am)*.

fork(2), *wait(2)*, *waitpid(2)*.

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