

Process



"User space" VS "Kernel space"

user space vs. kernel space JULIA EVANS @b0rk

drawings.jvns.ca

the Linux kernel has **millions** of lines of code

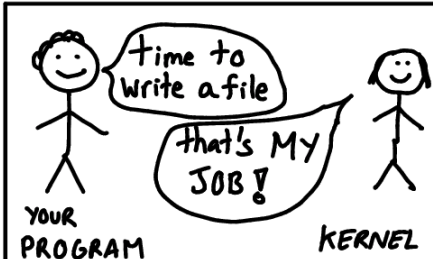
- ✱ read+write files
- ✱ decide which programs get to use the CPU
- ✱ make the keyboard work

When Linux kernel code runs, that's called

kernel space

When your program runs, that's

user space



your program switches back and forth

```
str = "my string"
```

```
x = x + 2
```

```
file.write(str) ← ✱ switch to kernel space ✱
```

```
y = x + 4
```

```
str = str * y ← ✱ and we're back to user space! ✱
```

timing your process

\$ time find /home

0.15 user 0.73 system

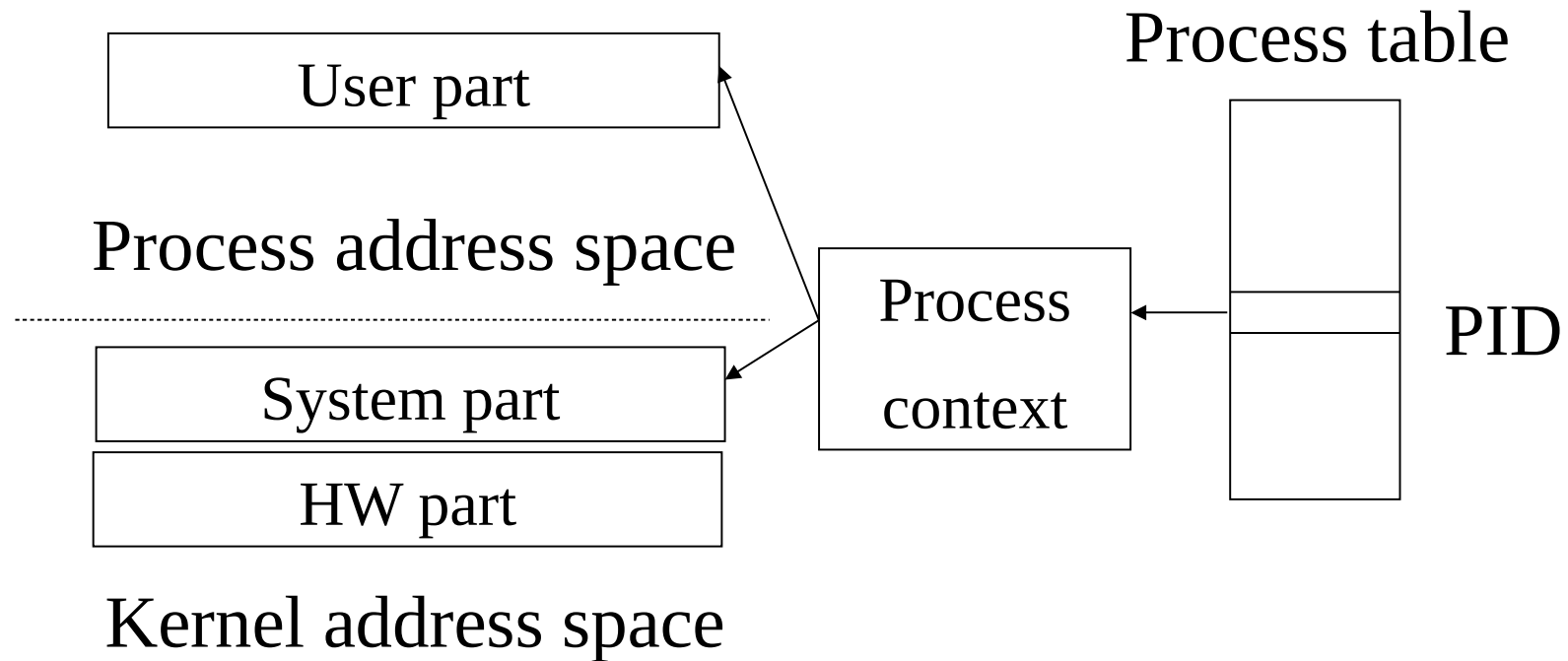
↑
time spent in
your process

↑
time spent by
the kernel doing
work for your
process

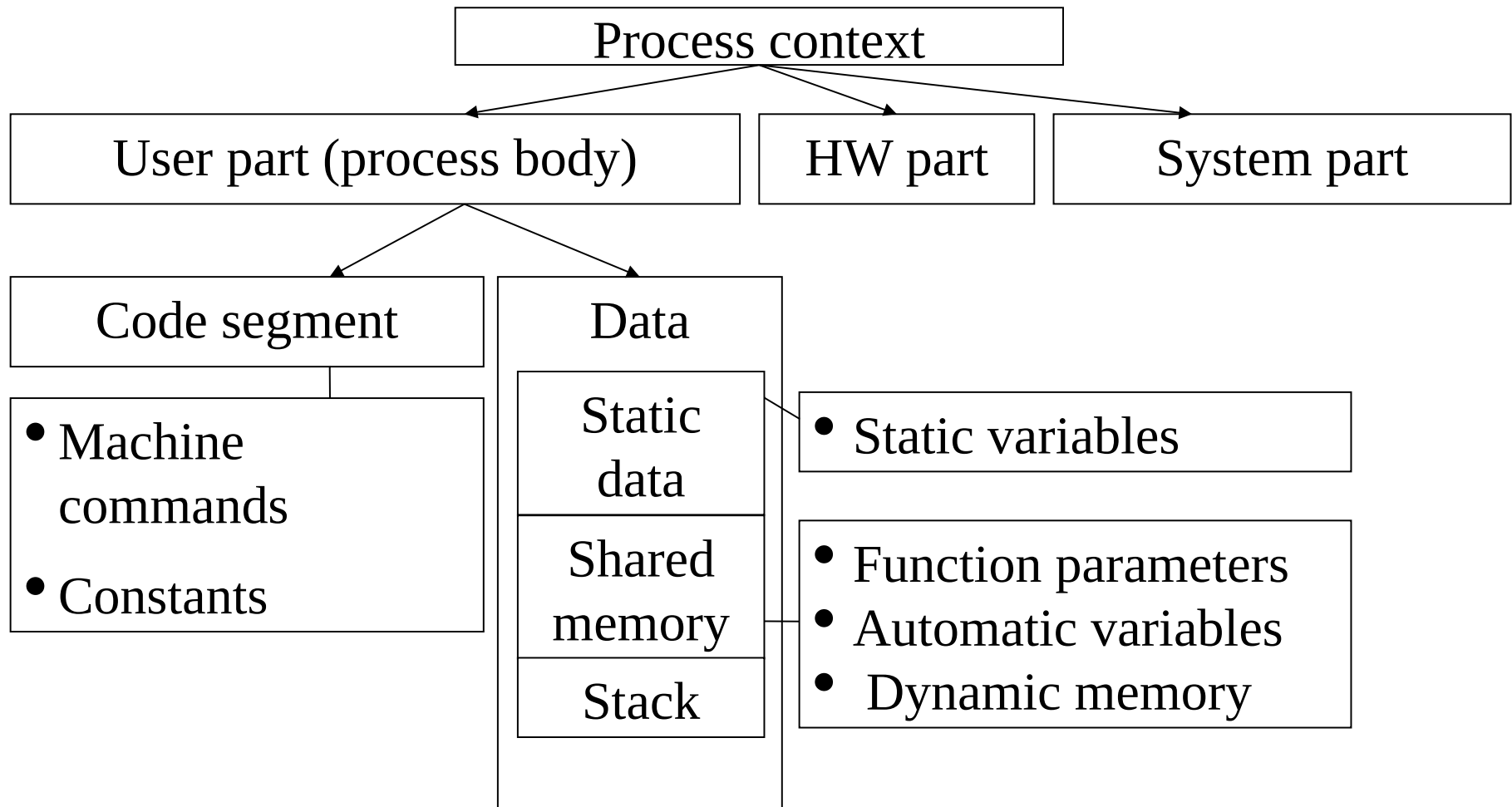
Process in Unix

Process in UNIX — registered object in the process table

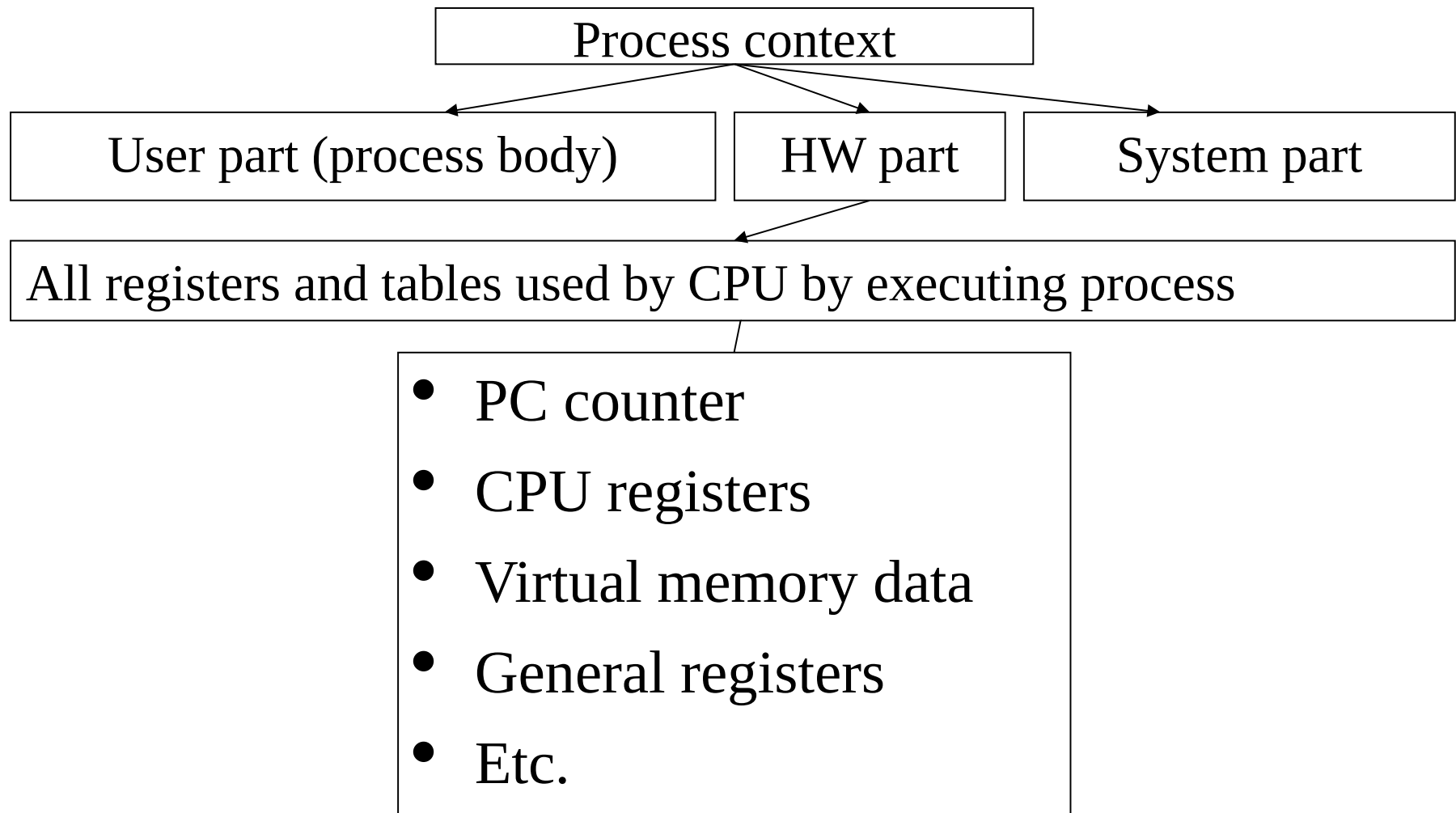
Process identifier (PID)



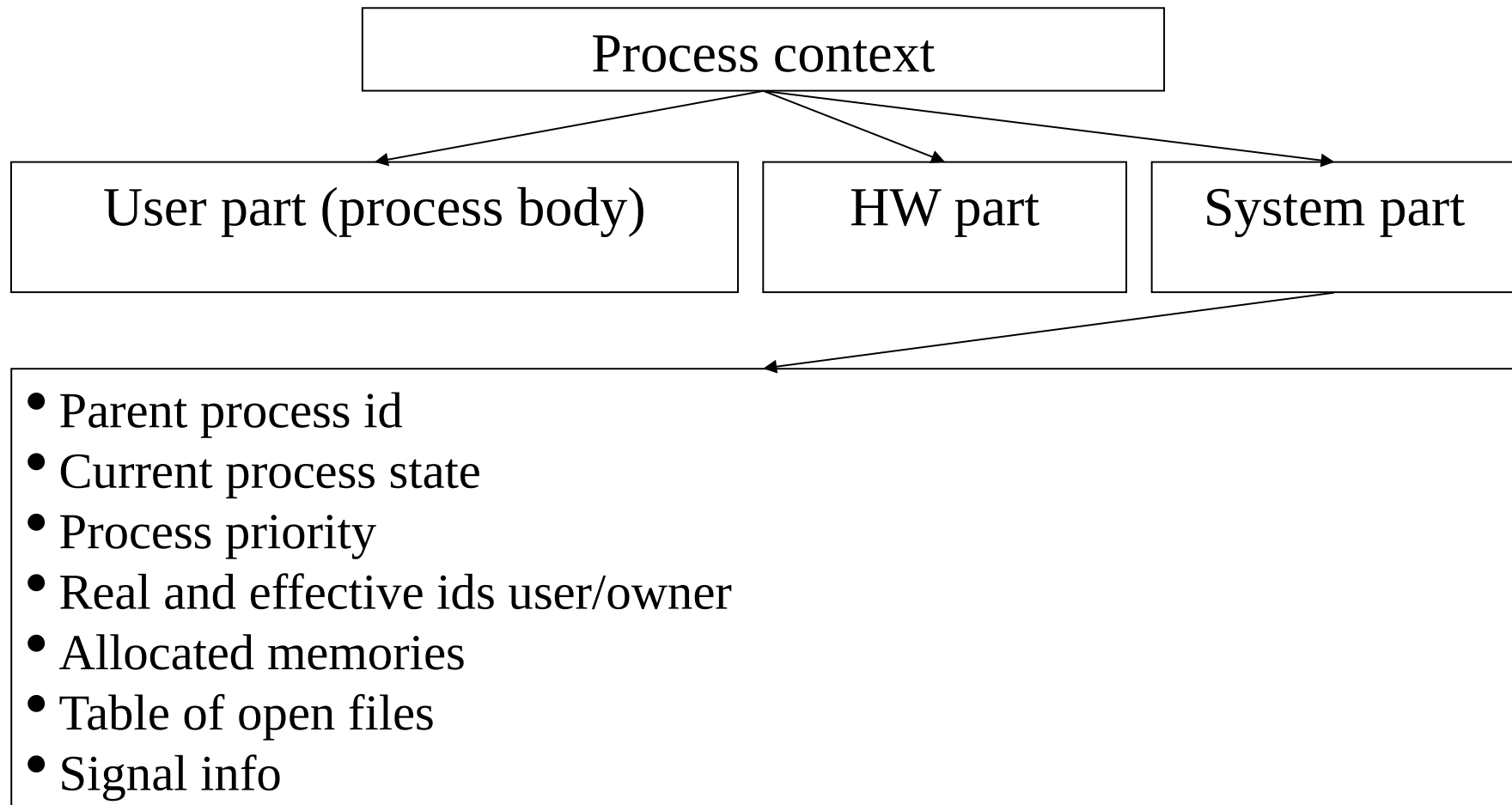
Process in Unix



Process in Unix



Process in Unix



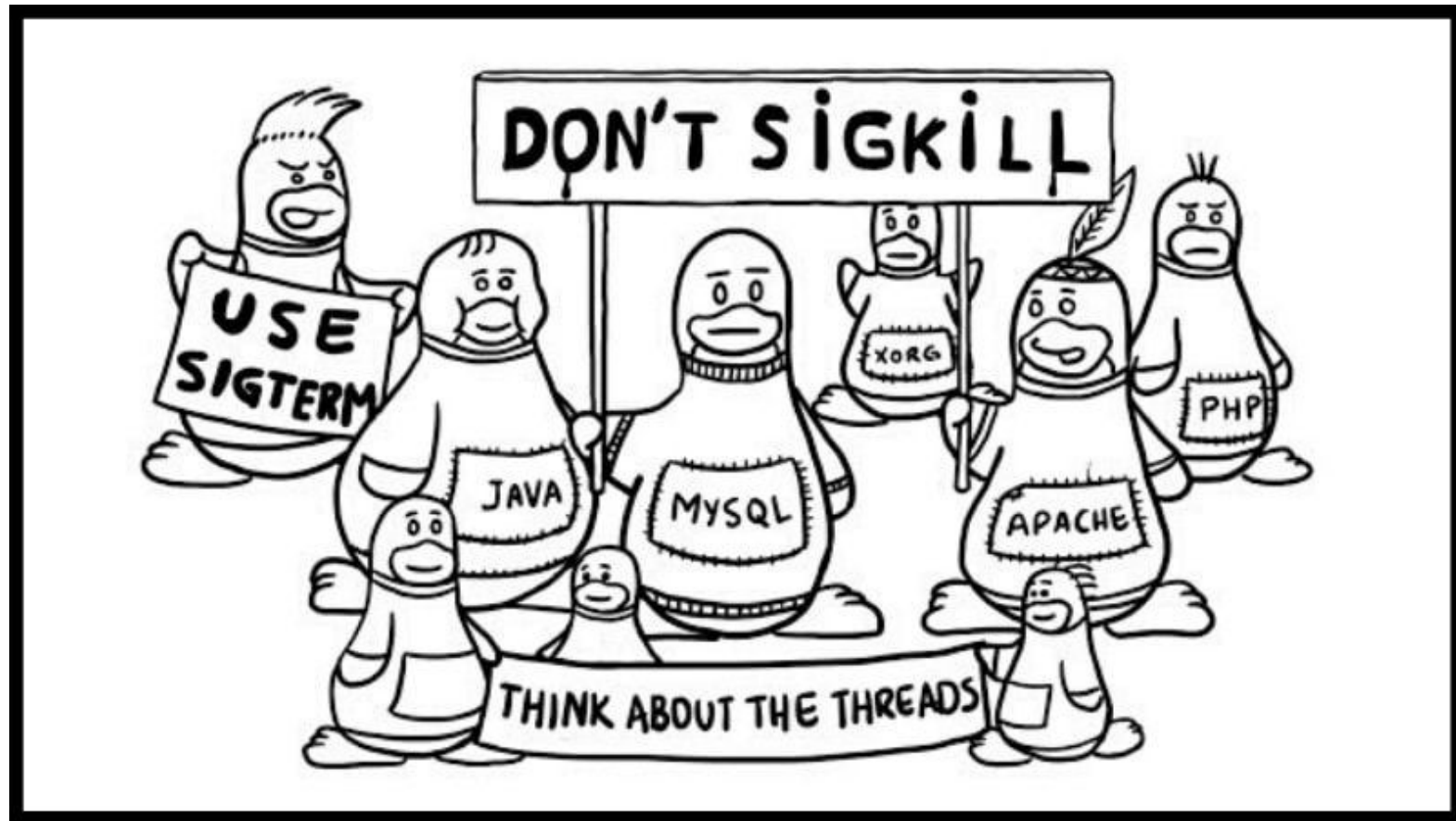
Fork , Exec & CoW

- Fork is the only way to get a process
syscall “fork” copies entire process, including memory state, and PC
- Exec is the way to run some app
syscall “exec” wipes the memory, load another code and resets the state
- “Copy on Write” - a performance improvement
- “Clone” is a parametrised “Fork”, **used by Fork**
- **Example !!**

Signals and Handlers

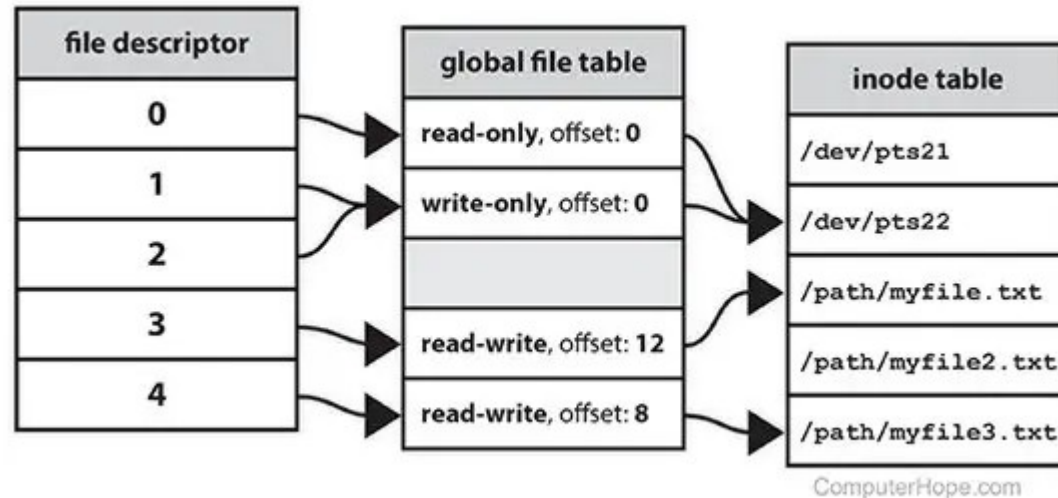
- “Signaling” it’s a mechanism to notify another process on some event. **No payload**
- “Kill - l “ to list the signals
- SIGKILL(9) and SIGSTOP(19) can not be ignored or handled
- SIGUSR1(10) and SIGUSR2(12) will not be sent by Kernel

SigTerm VS SigKill



https://linuxhandbook.com/content/images/2020/06/dont_sigkill_use_sigterm.jpg

File Descriptor



- F.D 0/1/2 used to be
STD-IN / STD-OUT / STD-ERR
- Dup2 (oldFD, newFD)
used to redirect the input /output