

07 - Processes and Jobs

CS 2043: Unix Tools and Scripting, Spring 2016 [1]

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Table of contents

1. Processes Overview
2. Modifying Processes
3. Jobs
4. Job Control Demo

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 - **They may also give very different results.**

Processes Overview

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- Example: if you open more than one terminal (windows or tabs), you are running multiple processes of your shell.
 - You can execute **echo \$\$** to see the process of the current running shell.

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- There are countless ways to discover the PID, as well as what processes are running.
- These methods often depend on how much information you want, as well as what your user privileges are.

Identification: **ps**

Process Snapshot

ps [options]

- Reports a snapshot of the current running processes, including PIDs.
- By default, only the processes started by the user.
- Use **-e** to list every process currently running on the system.
- Use **-ely** to get more information than you can handle.
- Use **-u <username>** to list all processes for user **username**.
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- To see more information about a process, pipe through **grep**.
 - For example: **ps -e | grep firefox** shows us the results about **firefox** processes.

Identification: **lsof**

List of Open Files

`lsof [options]`

- Very similar to **ps**, with more information by default.
- Frequently used for monitoring port connections...
- Use **-i** to list IP sockets.
 - E.g. `lsof -i tcp:843` shows all tcp processes on port **843**.
- Many options...read the man page if you are intrigued.

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 - E.g. **lsuf -i tcp:843** shows all tcp processes on port **843**.
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- As with **ps**, often best served with a side of **grep**.
 - More useful for administration, especially when managing a networked environment.

Display and Update **top** CPU Processes

top [**options**]

- Displays the amount of resources in percentages each process is using.
- Use **-d <seconds>** to control the update frequency.
 - The act of monitoring is an expensive process...
- Use **-u <user>** to show only the processes owned by **user**.
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- When used in conjunction with **ps** or **lsof**, can be a very powerful analysis tool.
 - **Example sequence on the next page.**

Example: Resource Monitoring

```
>>> ps -e | grep firefox
12975 ?          00:01:45 firefox
>>> top -p 12795
top - 09:37:56 up 1 day, 13:52,  5 users,  load average: 0.19, 0.20, 0.19
Tasks:  1 total,   0 running,   1 sleeping,   0 stopped,   0 zombie
%Cpu(s):  1.1 us,   0.5 sy,   0.0 ni, 98.4 id,   0.0 wa,   0.0 hi,   0.0 si,   0.0 st
KiB Mem : 16386660 total, 5990760 free, 3562320 used, 6833580 buff/cache
KiB Swap: 4194300 total, 4194300 free,    0 used. 12551476 avail Mem
  PID USER      PR  NI   VIRT   RES   SHR S  %CPU  %MEM     TIME+ COMMAND
 12975 sven      20   0 1437888 396868 105116 S   1.7   2.4   1:46.39 firefox
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- You'll be best off reading through the man page to understand everything going on here.

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- Some great examples in [3].
 - I've found myself on that website *many* times, he has a lot of excellent examples about a large quantity of topics.

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>>> top -p 12795
top - 09:43:09 up 1 day, 13:57,  5 users,  load average: 1.33, 0.75, 0.41
Tasks:  1 total,   1 running,   0 sleeping,   0 stopped,   0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 13.4 us,  3.3 sy,  0.0 ni, 83.2 id,  0.0 wa,  0.0 hi,  0.0 si,  0.0 st
KiB Mem : 16386660 total, 3622768 free, 5679500 used, 7084392 buff/cache
KiB Swap: 4194300 total, 4194300 free,      0 used. 10300816 avail Mem

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- 75.7%?!?! Pretty common actually, this is why I always tell you to use your browser inside your Virtual Machine...

Modifying Processes

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- Can we tell the server to give your process less priority in terms of CPU time?
- Recall that although Unix seems to run tens or hundreds of processes at once, one CPE can only run one process at a time*.
- Quick switching back and forth between processes makes it seem as though they are all running simultaneously.
- The Unix masters anticipated this need, and each process was given a **priority** when it starts.

Initial Priority

Start a process with a non-default priority:

The **nice** command

nice [options] command

- Runs **command** with a specified "*nice*ness" value (default: 10).
- *Nice*ness values range from **-20** (highest priority) to **19** (lowest priority).
- Only **root** can give a process a *negative nice*ness value.
- Commands run without **nice** have priority **0**.

Example

nice -n 10 deluge

- Keeps torrents from hogging the CPU.

Adjusting Priority

The **renice** command

```
renice <priority> -p <PID>
```

- Changes the *nice*ness of the process with id **PID** to **<priority>**.
- Remember: only **root** can assign *negative* values.
- You can only **renice** a process you started.

Some Examples

```
renice 5 -p 10275
```

- Set the *nice*ness of the process with **PID 10275** to 5
 - Slightly lower than normal *nice*ness

```
renice 19 -u sven
```

- Set the *nice*ness of **all** my processes to 19

Ending Processes: I

Sometimes you need to end a process.

kill

```
kill [-signal] <PID>
```

- Sends the specified **signal** to the process with id **PID**.
- By default, it terminates execution.

killall

```
killall [-signal] <name>
```

- Kills processes by name.
- E.g. `killall firefox`.

Note: These are dangerous commands, and should generally be last resorts.

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- Remember **top**? You can both *renice* and *kill* processes from within it!

Jobs

What are Jobs?

Jobs

A job is a process running *under the influence* of a job control facility.

- Job control is a built-in feature of most shells, allowing the user to pause and resume tasks.
- The user can also run them in the background.
- Not covered here: **crontab**. For the future sys admins, read the article in [2].

Why do you want this?

Let's use **ping** as an example.

Ping

ping <server>

- Measures network response time (latency) to a remote server and back.
- Sends short bursts to the server, then measures time until they return.

Example:

ping google.com

- Remember, **ctrl+c** kills the process.

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- etc.

Example:

```
vlc
```


Starting a Job in the Background

To run a job in the background, we will use a new operator:

&

`<command> [arguments] &`

- Runs the specified command as a background job.
- Unless told otherwise, will send output to the terminal!
- But at least we can type in our terminal again.

Example:

```
vlc best_song_ever.flac &
```

Sending a Job to the Background

If you already started the job, but don't want to wait any more:

Pausing a Job

Press `ctrl+z` to pause a running process!

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- Note this is still `ctrl` even on Mac...just like `ctrl+c`.
- The shell will pause the jobs **JOB ID** (similar to **PID**).
- We can bring it back.

Revivals

Background

`bg <JOB ID>`

- Resumes the job with id **JOB ID** in the *background*.
- Without **JOB ID**, resumes last job placed in background.

Foreground

`fg <JOB ID>`

- Resumes the job with id **JOB ID** in the *foreground*.
- Without **JOB ID**, resumes last job placed in background.

Discovering your **jobs**

`jobs`

- Prints the running, paused, or recently stopped jobs.
- Prints jobs with their **JOB IDs**.

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ping google.com > testping.log &
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- A **.log** file is common.

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```
# Should work in most Linux. Warning: non-POSIX compliant.  
>>> vlc best_song_ever.flac &> /dev/null &      # bash 4.0+  
# BSD/OSX/way out of date Linux:  
>>> vlc best_song_ever.flac > /dev/null 2>&1 & # before 4.0
```

Detaching Jobs

When you launch jobs with an `&` and then close your terminal, those jobs will *end*.

No Hangup

`nohup <command> [args]`

- Launches `command` so it will not end with **SIGHUP** signals.
- E.g. `nohup vlc best_song_ever.flac > /dev/null 2>&1 &`
 - Now we do not lose `vlc` when we close our terminal.

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If you have already launched the job, you can still save it.

Disown a Job

```
disown [flags] jobspec
```

- The **-h** flag prevents **jobspec** from **SIGHUP** killing it.
- The **jobspec** is the job number (e.g. run **jobs**).
- E.g. if **jobID** 1 is **vlc**, then `disown -h %1` will work.

Job Control Demo

I did a demo on-the-fly in class demonstrating job control, pausing, resuming, etc. I encourage you to follow the *ex post facto* demo here:

<https://github.com/cs2043-sp16/lecture-demos/tree/master/lec07>

References

[1] B. Abrahao, H. Abu-Libdeh, N. Savva, D. Slater, and others over the years.

Previous cornell cs 2043 course slides.

[2] C. Hope.

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