## **Reaping Children**

- wait(): parents reap their dead children
  - Given info about why child died, exit status, etc.

#### ■ Two variants

- wait(): wait for and reap next child to exit
- waitpid(): wait for and reap specific child

# pid\_t wait(int \*stat\_loc);

when called by a process with >=1 children:

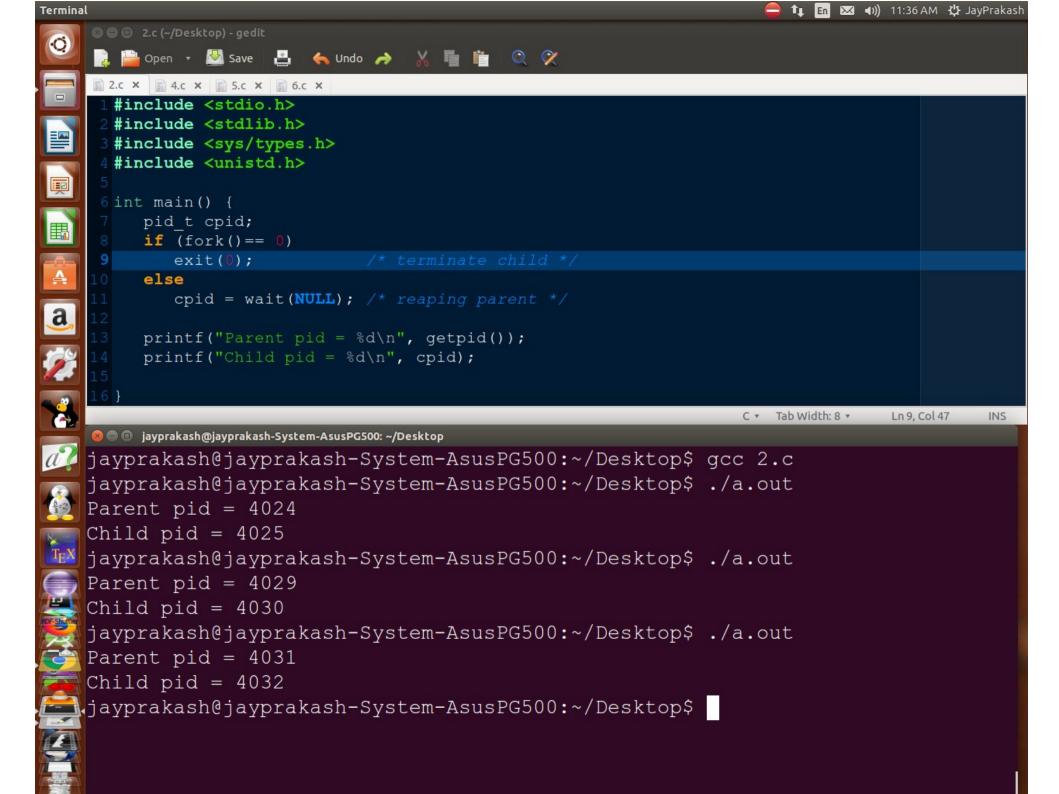
- waits (if needed) for a child to terminate
- reaps a terminated child (if >= 1 terminated children, arbitrarily pick one)
- returns reaped child's pid and exit status info via pointer (if non-NULL)

when called by a process with no children:

return -1 immediately

### **Example program**

```
int main() {
  pid t cpid;
   if (fork() == 0)
                          /* terminate child */
      exit(0);
  else
      cpid = wait(NULL); /* reaping parent */
  printf("Parent pid = %d\n", getpid());
  printf("Child pid = %d\n", cpid);
```



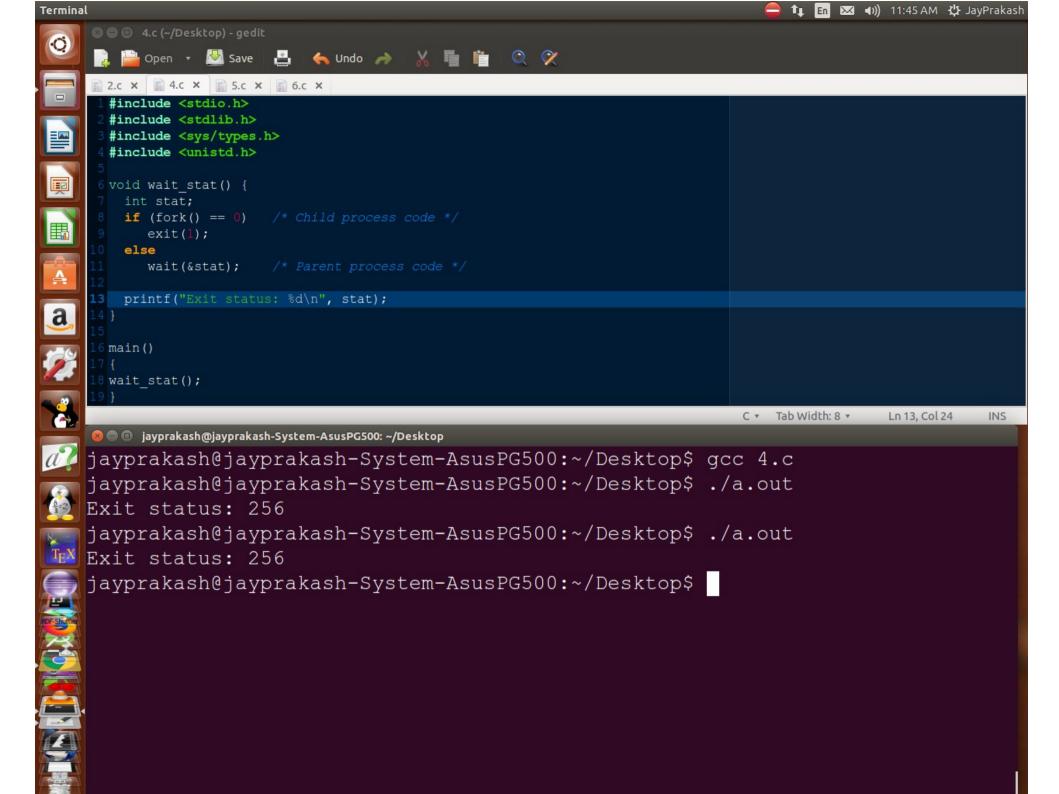
### **Example program**

```
int main() {
   if (fork()== 0) {
      printf("HC: hello from child\n");
   } else {
      printf("HP: hello from parent\n");
      wait(NULL);
      printf("CT: child has terminated\n");
   }
   printf("Bye\n");
}
```



#### Child status information

- status information about the child reported by wait is more than just the exit status of the child
  - normal/abnormal termination
  - termination cause
  - exit status



## Additional Status Info from wait() system Call

childpid = wait(&wstatus); → returns the exit status from child which can further be inspected using the following macros.

#### The WIF ... Macros

- WIFEXITED(wstatus) → returns true if child terminated normally.
  - WEXITSTATUS(wstatus) → returns exit status (least significant 8 bits)
- WIFSIGNALED(wstatus) → returns true if child process was terminated by a signal.
  - WTERMSIG(wstatus) → returns the number of signal
- WCOREDUMP(wstatus) → returns true if child produced a core dump
- WIFSTOPPED(wstatus) → returns true if child was stopped by a signal
  - WSTOPSIG(wstatus) → returns the signal number which caused child to stop
- WIFCONTINUED(wstatus) → returns true if child was resumed with SIGCONT signal

/\* prints information about a signal \*/

void psignal(unsigned sig, const char \*s);

