

Viewing full output of PS command

when I run `ps -aux` command on my linux server, to which I connected using putty, few processes are too long to fit in my current window width. Is there an alternative?

-- Update --

I am sorry for downgrading,I thought others won't find the answer useful too, so I downgraded.

Here is the info you asked for.

```
hadoop-user@hadoop-desk:~$ echo $TERM
xterm

hadoop-user@hadoop-desk:~$ stty -a
speed 38400 baud; rows 47; columns 158; line = 0;
intr = ^C; quit = ^\; erase = ^?; kill = ^U; eof = ^D; eol = <undef>; eol2 = <undef>; swtch = <undef>; start = ^Q; stop = ^S; susp = ^Z; rprnt = ^R;
werase = ^W; lnext = ^V; flush = ^O; min = 1; time = 0;
-parenb -parodd cs8 -hupcl -cstopb cread -clocal -crtscts
-ignbrk -brkint -ignpar -parmrk -inpck -istrip -inlcr -igncr icrnl ixon -ixoff -iuclc -ixany -imaxbel -iutf8
opost -olcuc -ocrnl onlcr -onocr -onlret -ofill -ofdel nl0 cr0 tab0 bs0 vt0 ff0
isig icanon iexten echo echoe echok -echonl -noflsh -xcase -tostop -echoprnt echoctl echoke

hadoop-user@hadoop-desk:~$ echo $COLUMNS
158
```

linux bash shell process

As an aside, you have provided very little information, so you shouldn't go about downvoting all the answers you've got so far. We are trying to help you. You should post the output of `echo $TERM` , `stty -a` , and `echo $COLUMNS` in your question. – Alok Singhal Jan 29 '10 at 5:18

Try `stty ocrnl` and/or `stty sane` ? – Alok Singhal Jan 29 '10 at 5:38

16 `ps axuww` That's the answer ;) At least for me. The doubled `ww` did it. – brutuscat Jan 30 '12 at 19:35

11 Answers

It is likely that you're using a pager such as `less` or `most` since the output of `ps aux` is longer than a screenful. If so, the following options will cause (or force) long lines to wrap instead of being truncated.

```
ps aux | less -+S

ps aux | most -w
```

If you use either of the following commands, lines won't be wrapped but you can use your arrow keys or other movement keys to scroll left and right.

```
ps aux | less -S      # use arrow keys, or Esc-( and Esc-), or Alt-( and Alt-)

ps aux | most        # use arrow keys, or < and > (Tab can also be used to scroll right)
```

Lines are always wrapped for `more` and `pg` .

When `ps aux` is used in a pipe, the `w` option is unnecessary since `ps` only uses screen width when output is to the terminal.

17 Please note that in Linux there is still a limit of 4096 characters hard-coded in kernel code: see stackoverflow.com/questions/199130/... – Mariano Paniga Dec 13 '13 at 14:00

3 @MarianoPaniga: You saved my life with that comment. – stackular Feb 10 '14 at 19:57

Using the `auxww` flags, you will see the full path to output in both your terminal window and from shell scripts.

```
darragh@darraghserver ~ $uname -a
SunOS darraghserver 5.10 Generic_142901-13 i86pc i386 i86pc

darragh@darraghserver ~ $which ps
/usr/bin/ps<br>

darragh@darraghserver ~ $/usr/ucb/ps auxww | grep ps
darragh 13680  0.0  0.0 3872 3152 pts/1    0 14:39:32  0:00 /usr/ucb/ps -auxww
darragh 13681  0.0  0.0 1420  852 pts/1    S 14:39:32  0:00 grep ps
```

`ps aux` lists all processes executed by all users. See `man ps` for details. The `ww` flag sets unlimited width.

```
-w      Wide output. Use this option twice for unlimited width.
w      Wide output. Use this option twice for unlimited width.
```

I found the answer on the following blog:
<http://www.snowfrog.net/2010/06/10/solaris-ps-output-truncated-at-80-columns/>

3 This is a better answer than the current accepted solution because not all systems (embedded linux) include 'most', 'more' or 'less' pagers. – frakman1 Oct 21 '16 at 15:13

simple and perfect:

```
ps -efww
```

won't truncate line

Just throw it on cat, which line-wraps automatically

```
ps aux | cat
```

- you can elaborate, a but more. – MZaragoza Nov 4 '14 at 18:51
- 4 Good solution for lightweight linux distributions like BusyBox, where advanced tools are not available :) – Lion Jun 16 '17 at 12:14
- easy to remember as well! – f-z-N Dec 14 '17 at 6:56
- still doesn't work – Tyguy7 yesterday

Passing it a few `w`s will ignore the display width.

- Tried this, but still some part of the command is not shown. – Boolean Jan 29 '10 at 4:38
- Did you try adding more than one? – Ignacio Vazquez-Abrams Jan 29 '10 at 4:39
- I tried adding more than 5..but somehow it doesn't show the complete command. – Boolean Jan 29 '10 at 4:48
- 1 Once you get to 3 you're seeing all that there is. Nothing beyond what it shows there is visible to *any* program. You have a different problem. – Ignacio Vazquez-Abrams Jan 29 '10 at 4:50

you can set output format, eg to see only the command and the process id.

```
ps -eo pid,args
```

see the man page of ps for more output format. alternatively, you can use the `-w` or `--width n` options.

If all else fails, here's another workaround, (just to see your long cmds)

```
awk '{ split(FILENAME,f,"/") ; printf "%s: %s\n", f[3],$0 }' /proc/[0-9]*/cmdline
```

- This didn't work for me. – Boolean Jan 29 '10 at 4:39
- 1 change the order and try again, pid,args – ghostdog74 Jan 29 '10 at 4:44

Sorry to be late to the party but just found this solution to the problem.

The lines are truncated because ps insists on using the value of \$COLUMNS, even if the output is not the screen at that moment. Which is a bug, IMHO. But easy to work around, just make ps think you have a superwide screen, i.e. set COLUMNS high for the duration of the ps command. An example:

```
$ ps -edalf                # truncates lines to screen width
$ COLUMNS=1000 ps -edalf  # wraps lines regardless of screen width
```

I hope this is still useful to someone. All the other ideas seemed much too complicated :)

If you are specifying the output format manually you also need to make sure the `args` option is *last* in the list of output fields, otherwise it will be truncated.

```
ps -A -o args,pid,lstart gives

/usr/lib/postgresql/9.5/bin 29900 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017
postgres: checkpointer proc 29902 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017
postgres: writer process    29903 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017
postgres: wal writer proces 29904 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017
postgres: autovacuum launch 29905 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017
postgres: stats collector p 29906 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017
[kworker/2:0]              30188 Fri May 12 09:20:17 2017
/usr/lib/upower/upowerd     30651 Mon May 8 09:57:58 2017
/usr/sbin/apache2 -k start  31288 Fri May 12 07:35:01 2017
/usr/sbin/apache2 -k start  31289 Fri May 12 07:35:01 2017
/sbin/rpc.statd --no-notify 31635 Mon May 8 09:49:12 2017
/sbin/rpcbind -f -w         31637 Mon May 8 09:49:12 2017
[nfsiod]                    31645 Mon May 8 09:49:12 2017
[kworker/1:0]               31801 Fri May 12 09:49:15 2017
[kworker/u16:0]             32658 Fri May 12 11:00:51 2017
```

but `ps -A -o pid,lstart,args` gets you the full command line:

```
29900 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017 /usr/lib/postgresql/9.5/bin/postgres -D /tmp/4493-d849-
dc76-9215 -p 38103
29902 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017 postgres: checkpointer process
```

```
29903 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017 postgres: writer process
29904 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017 postgres: wal writer process
29905 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017 postgres: autovacuum launcher process
29906 Thu May 11 10:41:59 2017 postgres: stats collector process
30188 Fri May 12 09:20:17 2017 [kworker/2:0]
30651 Mon May 8 09:57:58 2017 /usr/lib/upower/upowerd
31288 Fri May 12 07:35:01 2017 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
31289 Fri May 12 07:35:01 2017 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
31635 Mon May 8 09:49:12 2017 /sbin/rpc.statd --no-notify
31637 Mon May 8 09:49:12 2017 /sbin/rpcbind -f -w
31645 Mon May 8 09:49:12 2017 [nfsiod]
31801 Fri May 12 09:49:15 2017 [kworker/1:0]
32658 Fri May 12 11:00:51 2017 [kworker/u16:0]
```

If you `grep` the command that you are looking for with a pipe from `ps aux`, it will wrap the text automatically. I used a lot of the other answers on here, but sometimes if you are looking for something specific, it is nice to just use `grep` and you know that it will wrap lines.

For instance `ps aux | grep ffmpeg` .

If none of the solutions above work, the output of `ps` isn't your problem. Maybe you need to set putty to wrap long lines?

Otherwise, we need more information.

This occurs in gnome-terminal and native linux tty's also(ctrl+alt+f1 to f7) .. – Boolean Jan 29 '10 at 5:09

Oh well. There is something weird going on. – Alok Singhal Jan 29 '10 at 5:12

I found this answer which is what nailed it for me as none of the above answers worked

<https://unix.stackexchange.com/questions/91561/ps-full-command-is-too-long>

Basically, the kernel is limiting my cmd line.