Opening Files in External Programs

Some files like images, doesn't make much sense if you cannot sense unless you can see them (or listen to them!). For this we will need some additional external software. You can use the **open** command in macOS to open a file in a default external program. If you are trying to open an image, the image will be opened inside of the *Preview* app. At least in the *Catalina* version.
In Linux you can do the same thing with the **xdg-open** command which is a wrapper command for all kinds of custom commands that exist for each desktop environment.
These command will open files in the default programs, but what if you want to open files in some programs explicitly? You can do that by invoking the specific command which refers to that program. For example, **eog** command starts the *eye of gnome* which is an image viewing program in Gnome desktop environment. However when you open an image with this command, the image will be opened as a *foreground process*. This means that the terminal will be blocked until you close the image.
You can get around this by putting the **&** character after the command. This will put the process in the background. You can see all of the running processes with the **ps** command.
In Z shell, there are *suffix aliases*. You can use this special kind of aliases to set default programs which will run specific file extensions.

```
$ alias -s jpg=eog
```

This is how the suffix alias is set. If I now just type in the name of any *jpg* file, without commands, the image will be opened inside of the *eog*.