PS AND TOP

WHAT ARE PROCESSES AND WHY MONITOR THEM?

A process is a running program on your system. Eg like your terminal, a web browser, or background services like cron. Monitoring processes is a core cybersecurity skill because it helps you spot suspicious activity eg malware, troubleshoot performance issues, or verify that tools are running correcty. There are two powerful process commands: PS and TOP.

The PS: Process Status command gives a snapshot of running processes. It consists of basic command lines such as:

- Ps: shows processes in my current terminal(eg bash and ps itself).
- Ps –u \$USER: lists all the processes under my user account.
- Ps aux: displays all system processes, including those owned by root or other users. This was eye-opening, showing systems lservices like system and VMwares vmtoolsd..
- Ps aux | grep: this helps to find a specific service running in the background.

The TOP: this provides a live, interactive view of processes. Running top showed:

- A system summary of CPU, memory and task counts etc.
- A list of processes with details like PID, user, CPU/memory usage and state.

Top also has few navigation keys such as pressing q to quit and k to kill a process, top is ideal for ongoing monitoring



