

Report — Process Creation and Management (Python/Linux)

Objectives

- Simulate ``fork``, ``exec``, and process state inspections.
- Demonstrate zombie and orphan states.
- Read from ``/proc``.
- Show scheduler impact via ``nice``.

Method

One Python script with subcommands per task:

- Task 1: ``os.fork``, ``os.wait``.
- Task 2: ``os.execvp`` for real commands.
- Task 3: Controlled sleeps to expose ``Z``ombies and orphans.
- Task 4: Read ``/proc/[pid]/status``, ``/exe``, ``/fd``.
- Task 5: CPU-bound loops with varied ``nice()`` values.

Results (summarized)

- Children printed correct PID and PPID, parent reaped all.
- Exec replaced child images and produced system command outputs.
- Zombie visible as ``<defunct>`` until reaped. Orphan reparented to PID 1.
- ``/proc`` gave live metadata about state, memory, and FDs.
- Higher nice values finished slightly later under CPU contention.

Complexity

Time: $O(n)$ children. Space: $O(n)$ PIDs/logs.

Screenshots / Snapshots (text)

See ``output.txt`` logging for representative runs.

Conclusion

The script meets the assignment's expected outputs and demonstrates core Linux process concepts.