

PROCESS STATE CODES & SIGNALS

Here are the different values that the s, stat and state output specifiers (header "STAT" or "S") will display to describe the state of a process:

- D ➔ uninterruptible sleep (usually IO)
- R ➔ running or runnable (on run queue)
- S ➔ interruptible sleep (waiting for an event to complete)
- T ➔ stopped, either by a job control signal or because it is being traced
- W ➔ paging (not valid since the 2.6.xx kernel)
- X ➔ dead (should never be seen)
- Z ➔ defunct ("zombie") process, terminated but not reaped by its parent
- I ➔ idle state

For BSD formats and when the stat keyword is used, additional characters may be displayed:

- < high-priority (not nice to other users)
- N low-priority (nice to other users)
- L has pages locked into memory (for real-time and custom IO)
- s is a session leader
- l is multi-threaded (using CLONE_THREAD, like NPTL threads do)
- + is in the foreground process group.