NAME

"maxtime" − run a command with a timeout

SYNOPSIS

    maxtime [−g] [−k] [−v] [−w] [−−] *time command* [*arg1 ...*]

DESCRIPTION

maxtime allows for an external program to be run with a time limit. The argument *time* must be a positive number of seconds, and may be fractional. If the *command* terminates within this period, **maxtime** reports its exit status. If the command's real (wall clock) time exceeds the time limit, it will be killed with SIGTERM. **maxtime** will then return the value 106 to indicate the timeout (see below under RETURN VALUE).

OPTIONS

−g   The specified *command* will run in its own process group. If the command times out, the entire process group will be killed.

−k   If SIGTERM does not kill *command*, send SIGKILL after a short delay.

−v   Be verbose. If not specified, **maxtime** will not report what it is doing, even if it exits due to an error. However, the exit code will indicate the problem.

−w   Wait for termination of the child process, even if it timed out and was sent a SIGTERM and/or SIGKILL.

ENVIRONMENT

PATH

PATH is traversed in order to find the specified *command*.

RETURN VALUE

maxtime returns the exit status of the external command, unless an error condition occurs, in which case the exit code will be greater than 100.

0   The command completed successfully.

1 to 100
The command was unsuccessful. The exit status is the exit status of the external command.

101   Too few commandline arguments.

102   Invalid command line options.

103   Error while setting the alarm signal handler.

104   Error while forking child process.

105   Error during *exec()*. Probably the command specified is not in the **PATH**.

106   Either the *command* timed out and was killed, or some other process sent it a signal, causing it to terminate. The command did not return a useful exit status.

107   Insufficient memory to perform requested task.

108   The *time* specified was not a valid floating-point number.

109   The specified timer period was negative or zero.

110   The timer could not be set.

128 and up
The command was unsuccessful, and exited due to a signal (e.g. an interrupt was sent from the keyboard).

EXAMPLES

Attempt to download a network file, but allow at most 10 seconds:

    maxtime 10 wget http://catb.org/jargon/html/index.html

Request the status of a Baan shared memory segment, but do not lock up if shared memory is corrupt:

```
maxtime 2 $BSE/bin/shmmanager6.1 -s
```

Allow at most 10 minutes for stopping a Baan software environment:

```
maxtime 600 $BSE/etc/rc.stop
```

BUGS

If the *time* argument is omitted and an *arg* argument is provided, **maxtime** might interpret its commandline arguments wrong. This will only be apparent if **−v** has been used, or if its exit status is tested for value 105.

On some platforms, **maxtime** might confuse options for the external command as options for itself. In these cases is necessary to indicate the end of **maxtime**'s options using **−−**.

SEE ALSO

exit (3), *setitimer* (2), *signal* (7), *wait* (2).

VERSION

This manual pertains to **maxtime** version 0.36.

AUTHOR and COPYRIGHT

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