◆ **ps Options - Why the difference?**

1. ps (no options)

- Default: only shows the processes **running in the current terminal session** (your shell + things you started from it).

- Example:

- ps

- PID TTY   TIME CMD

- 3241 pts/0   00:00:00 bash

- 3305 pts/0   00:00:00 ps

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2. ps aux

- **BSD style options** (no leading -).

- Shows **all processes** on the system, from all users.

- Columns: user, PID, CPU%, MEM%, etc.

- Example:

- ps aux | head -5

- USER   PID %CPU %MEM   VSZ RSS TTY   STAT START   TIME COMMAND

- root   1 0.0 0.1 169936 936 ?   Ss   Aug24   0:02 /sbin/init

- root   531 0.0 0.3 215456 3240 ?   Ss   Aug24   0:01 /lib/systemd/systemd-journald

- ...

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3. ps -ef

- **Unix/POSIX style options** (with -).

- Also shows **all processes**, like ps aux, but in a different format.

- Columns: UID, PID, PPID (parent PID), start time, etc.

- Example:

- ps -ef | head -5

- UID   PID PPID C STIME TTY   TIME CMD

- root   1   0 0 Aug24 ?   00:00:02 /sbin/init

- root 531   1 0 Aug24 ?   00:00:01 /lib/systemd/systemd-journald

◆ **ps Options - Why the difference?**

- ...

◆ **Summary**

- ps → only **your session's processes**.

- ps aux → **all processes**, BSD style output (USER, CPU, MEM).

- ps -ef → **all processes**, Unix style output (UID, PID, PPID, CMD).

Both aux and -ef are widely used by admins, just different column styles.

👉 in short:

- ps → "show me my stuff only."

- ps aux / ps -ef → "show me the whole system."