

NAME

pgrep, **pskill** - look up or signal processes based on name and other attributes

SYNOPSIS

pgrep [options] pattern

pskill [options] pattern

DESCRIPTION

pgrep looks through the currently running processes and lists the process IDs which match the selection criteria to stdout. All the criteria have to match. For example,

```
$ pgrep -u root sshd
```

will only list the processes called **sshd** AND owned by **root**. On the other hand,

```
$ pgrep -u root,daemon
```

will list the processes owned by **root** OR **daemon**.

pskill will send the specified signal (by default **SIGTERM**) to each process instead of listing them on stdout.

OPTIONS

-signal

--signal *signal*

Defines the signal to send to each matched process. Either the numeric or the symbolic signal name can be used. (**pskill** only.)

-c, --count

Suppress normal output; instead print a count of matching processes. When count does not match anything, e.g. returns zero, the command will return non-zero value.

-d, --delimiter *delimiter*

Sets the string used to delimit each process ID in the output (by default a newline). (**pgrep** only.)

-f, --full

The *pattern* is normally only matched against the process name. When **-f** is set, the full command line is used.

-g, --pgroup *pgroup*,...

Only match processes in the process group IDs listed. Process group 0 is translated into **pgrep**'s or **pskill**'s own process group.

-G, --group *gid*,...

Only match processes whose real group ID is listed. Either the numerical or symbolical value may be used.

-i, --ignore-case

Match processes case-insensitively.

-l, --list-name

List the process name as well as the process ID. (**pgrep** only.)

-a, --list-full

List the full command line as well as the process ID. (**pgrep** only.)

-n, --newest

Select only the newest (most recently started) of the matching processes.

-o, --oldest

Select only the oldest (least recently started) of the matching processes.

-P, --parent *ppid*,...

Only match processes whose parent process ID is listed.

- s, --session *sid*,...**
Only match processes whose process session ID is listed. Session ID 0 is translated into **pgrep**'s or **pkill**'s own session ID.
- t, --terminal *term*,...**
Only match processes whose controlling terminal is listed. The terminal name should be specified without the `"/dev/"` prefix.
- u, --euid *euid*,...**
Only match processes whose effective user ID is listed. Either the numerical or symbolical value may be used.
- U, --uid *uid*,...**
Only match processes whose real user ID is listed. Either the numerical or symbolical value may be used.
- v, --inverse**
Negates the matching. This option is usually used in **pgrep**'s context. In **pkill**'s context the short option is disabled to avoid accidental usage of the option.
- w, --lightweight**
Shows all thread ids instead of pids in **pgrep**'s context. In **pkill**'s context this option is disabled.
- x, --exact**
Only match processes whose names (or command line if `-f` is specified) **exactly** match the *pattern*.
- F, --pidfile *file***
Read *PID*'s from file. This option is perhaps more useful for **pkill** than **pgrep**.
- L, --logpidfile**
Fail if pidfile (see `-F`) not locked.
- ns *pid***
Match processes that belong to the same namespaces. Required to run as root to match processes from other users. See `--nslist` for how to limit which namespaces to match.
- nslist *name*,...**
Match only the provided namespaces. Available namespaces: `ipc`, `mnt`, `net`, `pid`, `user`, `uts`.
- V, --version**
Display version information and exit.
- h, --help**
Display help and exit.

OPERANDS

pattern Specifies an Extended Regular Expression for matching against the process names or command lines.

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Find the process ID of the **named** daemon:

```
$ pgrep -u root named
```

Example 2: Make **syslog** reread its configuration file:

```
$ pkill -HUP syslogd
```

Example 3: Give detailed information on all **xterm** processes:

```
$ ps -fp $(pgrep -d, -x xterm)
```

Example 4: Make all **netscape** processes run nicer:

```
$ renice +4 $(pgrep netscape)
```

EXIT STATUS

- 0 One or more processes matched the criteria.
- 1 No processes matched.
- 2 Syntax error in the command line.
- 3 Fatal error: out of memory etc.

NOTES

The process name used for matching is limited to the 15 characters present in the output of `/proc/pid/stat`. Use the `-f` option to match against the complete command line, `/proc/pid/cmdline`.

The running **pgrep** or **pskill** process will never report itself as a match.

BUGS

The options **-n** and **-o** and **-v** can not be combined. Let me know if you need to do this.

Defunct processes are reported.

SEE ALSO

[ps\(1\)](#), [regex\(7\)](#), [signal\(7\)](#), [killall\(1\)](#), [skill\(1\)](#), [kill\(1\)](#), [kill\(2\)](#)

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REPORTING BUGS

Please send bug reports to [Unknown](#)