

**NAME**

timeout - run a command with a time limit

**SYNOPSIS**

**timeout** [*OPTION*] *DURATION* *COMMAND* [*ARG*]...

**timeout** [*OPTION*]

**DESCRIPTION**

Start *COMMAND*, and kill it if still running after *DURATION*.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

**--preserve-status**

exit with the same status as *COMMAND*, even when the command times out

**--foreground**

when not running timeout directly from a shell prompt, allow *COMMAND* to read from the TTY and get TTY signals; in this mode, children of *COMMAND* will not be timed out

**-k, --kill-after=*DURATION***

also send a KILL signal if *COMMAND* is still running this long after the initial signal was sent

**-s, --signal=*SIGNAL***

specify the signal to be sent on timeout; *SIGNAL* may be a name like 'HUP' or a number; see 'kill -l' for a list of signals

**--help** display this help and exit**--version**

output version information and exit

*DURATION* is a floating point number with an optional suffix: 's' for seconds (the default), 'm' for minutes, 'h' for hours or 'd' for days.

If the command times out, and **--preserve-status** is not set, then exit with status 124. Otherwise, exit with the status of *COMMAND*. If no signal is specified, send the TERM signal upon timeout. The TERM signal kills any process that does not block or catch that signal. It may be necessary to use the KILL (9) signal, since this signal cannot be caught, in which case the exit status is 128+9 rather than 124.

**BUGS**

Some platforms don't currently support timeouts beyond the year 2038.

**AUTHOR**

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**REPORTING BUGS**

GNU coreutils online help: <<http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report timeout translation bugs to <<http://translationproject.org/team/>>

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**SEE ALSO**

[kill\(1\)](#)

Full documentation at: <<http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/timeout>>  
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) timeout invocation'