

NAME

ps – process status

SYNOPSIS

ps [**aklx**] [namelist]

DESCRIPTION

Ps prints certain indicia about active processes. The **a** flag asks for information about all processes with teletypes (ordinarily only one's own processes are displayed); **x** asks even about processes with no typewriter; **l** asks for a long listing. Ordinarily only the typewriter number (if not one's own), the process number, and an approximation to the command line are given. If the **k** flag is specified, the special file */usr/sys/core* is used in place of */dev/mem*. This is used for post-mortem system debugging.

The long listing is columnar and contains

A number encoding the state (last digit) and flags (first 1 or 2 digits) of the process.

The priority of the process; high numbers mean low priority.

A number related in some unknown way to the scheduling heuristic.

The last character of the control typewriter of the process.

The process unique number (as in certain cults it is possible to kill a process if you know its true name).

The size in blocks of the core image of the process.

The last column if non-blank tells the core address in the system of the event which the process is waiting for; if blank, the process is running.

Ps makes an educated guess as to the file name and arguments given when the process was created by examining core memory or the swap area. The method is inherently somewhat unreliable and in any event a process is entitled to destroy this information, so the names cannot be counted on too much.

FILES

/unix system namelist
/dev/mem core memory
/dev/rf0 swap device
/dev/rk0 optional mem file

SEE ALSO

kill (I)

BUGS

The command has assumptions built into it about the number of typewriters that exist and what hardware is used to interface them. It also has built into it the name of the device used for swapping.