

Killing Processes

This tip shows you some interesting ways to kill stubborn processes. Never let it be said that you can't kill a process again! The first way is the old boring way that most people probably use. Use the command `ps aux`, look through the process list until you find the PID you want and issue the kill command. How tedious!

Alternatively, try using the `killall` command which will automatically kill a program based on its name.

Code Listing 1

```
# killall mozilla-bin
```

But what if you only know part of the name? Well, you could combine `ps` with `grep`, `kill` and `awk` to produce something like this.

Code Listing 2

```
# ps aux | grep mozilla | awk '{print $2}' | xargs kill
```

But, there's a far simpler way. Enter `pkill` and the closely related `pgrep`. These commands are part of the `sys-apps/procps` package and are designed to search for (or kill) running processes. So the previous command could be replaced with the following:

Code Listing 3

```
# pkill mozilla
```

Note: To list the PIDs instead of killing them, use `pgrep`.

Finally, what if you have a runaway process hogging `/dev/dsp`, or some other file/socket? You can use `fuser`, which displays the PIDs of process using a specified file or filesystem. Or give it the `-k` option, like this, and you can easily kill those processes:

Code Listing 4

```
# fuser -k /dev/dsp
```

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