procs Modern ps replacement

CONCEPTS

procs is a ps replacement: coloured columns, built-in search and sort, no flags to memorise.

Keyword procs <word>
↓ numeric?
Number exact match on PID
↓ else
Text partial match on user, command
How a keyword is matched

Non-numeric keywords match USER and Command; numbers match PID exactly. The config can add more searched columns.

Without sudo, Linux hides some data (such as I/O throughput) of other users' processes, and ports of their sockets.

SEARCH

procs *<keyword>*
Filter by user or command

procs *<pid>*
Show one PID

procs *<a>* *<b>*
Match all keywords (default)

procs --or *<a>* *<b>*
Match any keyword

SEARCH (cont.)

procs --nor *<a>* *<b>*
Hide matches of any keyword

procs --nand *<a>* *<b>*
Hide matches of all keywords

procs --and *<a>* *<b>*
Match all, explicitly

procs --regex *'<pattern>'*
Regex search, one pattern

procs --smart *<pattern>*
Auto-detect regex syntax

procs --text *<word>*
Plain text search

procs -o *<a>* *<b>*
Short form of --or

SORT AND COLUMNS

procs --sortd *<kind>*
Sort descending by a column

procs --sorta *<kind>*
Sort ascending by a column

procs --list
List available column kinds

procs --insert *<kind>*
Add a column to a slot

procs --only *<kind>*
Show just one column

SORT AND COLUMNS (cont.)

procs --no-header
Suppress the header line

procs --thread
Show threads

procs --sortd vmrss
Biggest memory users first

procs --sorta starttime
Oldest processes first

procs --insert tcp
Add listening TCP ports column

procs --insert read write
Add disk read and write columns

procs --insert docker
Add container name column

TREE AND WATCH

procs --tree
Draw the process tree

procs --tree *<word>*
Tree of matches with relatives

procs --watch
Refresh every second

procs --watch-interval *<sec>*
Refresh at a custom interval

procs -t
Short form of --tree

TREE AND WATCH (cont.)

procs -w
Short form of --watch

procs -W *<sec>*
Short form of --watch-interval

n / p
Next / previous sort column (watch)

a / d
Sort ascending / descending (watch)

q
Quit watch mode

procs --interval *<ms>*
Throughput sampling time, default 100

OUTPUT

procs --pager always
Always page the output

procs --pager disable
Never page

procs --color always
Keep colours in a pipe

procs --color disable
Plain output

procs --theme light
Force the light theme

procs --json
Output as JSON

procs --procfs *<path>*
Read an alternate procfs

CONFIG

procs --gen-config
Print a full sample config

procs --use-config large
Built-in wider column set

procs --load-config *<path>*
Load a config file

~/.config/procs/config.toml
Linux config file

procs --gen-completion-out *<shell>*
Print shell completion

procs --gen-completion *<shell>*
Write completion file here

RECIPES

Find what listens on a port

```
procs --insert tcp --sortd tcp
# TcpPort column lists listening ports
sudo procs --insert tcp nginx
```

Top memory and CPU hogs

```
procs --sortd vmrss | head
procs --sortd cpu --pager disable | head
```

Watch one service tree

```
procs --tree --watch nginx
```

Script-friendly output

```
procs --json | jq '.[0]'
procs --color disable --no-header <word>
```