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>
```