# procs Modern ps replacement

**START HERE**

**procs**
List all processes

**procs --tree**
Show parent/child tree

**procs <word>**
Search user and command

**procs --watch**
Live refresh, like top

**procs 1234**
Find a PID

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

**procs --sortd cpu**
Busiest first

**sudo procs**
See every user's details

## 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

**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

## SEARCH (cont.)

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

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

*Short forms: -a and, -o or, -d nand, -r nor.*

## SORT AND COLUMNS

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

*The kind is matched partially and case-insensitively, so cpu, mem and time work.*

**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

**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

**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

## OUTPUT (cont.)

**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

*Values: default or large.*

**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

**procs --gen-man-page**
Print a man page

**procs --version**
Show version

## 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>
```