07 – Your shell, jobs, and proc

CS 2043: Unix Tools and Scripting, Spring 2019 [2]

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As always: Everybody! ssh to wash.cs.cornell.edu

- Quiz time! Everybody! run `quiz-02-06-19`
- You can just explain a concept from last class, doesn't have to be a command this time.

Processes Overview

What is a Process?

- A process is just an instance of a running program.
- Not just a “program” - it is being *executed*.
- Not just a “running program”, as you can execute the same program multiple times.
    - These would be multiple processes running an instance of the same program.
- Example: if you open more than one terminal (windows or tabs), you are running multiple processes of your shell.
- You can execute `echo $$` to see the process of the current running shell.

Identification

- Processes have a unique “Process ID” (PID) when created.
- The PID allows you to distinguish between multiple instances of the same program.
- There are countless ways to discover the PID, as well as what processes are running.
- These methods often depend on how much information you want, as well as what your user priviliges are.

Identification: `ps`

Process Snapshot

`ps [options]`

- Reports a snapshot of the current running processes, including PIDs.
- By default, only the processes started by the user.
- Use `-e` to list every process currently running on the system.
- Use `-ely` to get more information than you can handle.
- Use `-u <username>` to list all processes for user `username`.
- Use `-C <processname>` to list all processes matching a name
- Use `ps aux` for “BSD” style ps, works on macOS/*nix

Resource Usage

Display and Update top CPU Processes

`top [flags]`

- Displays the amount of resources in percentages each process is using.
- Use `-d <seconds>` to control the update frequency.
    - The act of monitoring resources usage uses resources!
- Use `-u <user>` to show only the processes owned by `user`.
- Use `-p <PID>` to show only the statistics on process with id number `PID`.

- Can be a very powerful analysis tool.

Better Resource Usage

Display and Update htop CPU Processes

`htop [flags]`

- Displays the amount of resources in percentages each process is using.
- Use `-d <seconds>` to control the update frequency.
    - The act of monitoring resources usage uses resources!
- Use `-u <user>` to show only the processes owned by `user`.
- Use `-p <PID>` to show only the statistics on process with id number `PID`.

- Just a lot better than `top`, but not on all systems
- use F6 (the function key) to change sort order

Example: Resource Monitoring

- First, use `ps` to find the PID for `firefox`:

```
$ ps -C firefox
12975 ? 00:01:45 firefox
```

- Now that we have the PID of `firefox`, monitor using `htop`:

```
$ htop -p 12795
```

- See `man htop` to understand what all is being reported.
- Some great top examples in [3].

Modifying Processes

Priority

- Suppose you want to run some long calculation that might take days, but would consume 100% of your CPU.
- Can we tell the server to give your process less priority in terms of CPU time?
- Recall that although Unix seems to run tens or hundreds of processes at once, one CPU can only only run “one process” at a time.
- Quick switching back and forth between processes makes it seem as though they are all running simultaneously.
- In Unix, each process is given a `priority` when it starts.
    - This priority determines how frequently the process gets CPU time.

Initial Priority

Execute Process with Non-default Priority

```
nice [options] command
```

- Runs **command** with specified *"niceness"* value (default: **10**).
- *Niceness* values range from **-20** (highest priority) to **19** (lowest priority).
- Only **root** can give a process a *negative niceness* value.
- Commands run without **nice** have priority **0**.
- Example: **nice -n 10 deluge**
    - Prevent torrents from hogging the CPU.
    - ... don't pirate stuff folks

Adjusting Priority

Change the Priority of a Running Process

`renice <priority> -p <PID>`

- Change *niceness* of process with id **PID** to **<priority>**.
- Remember: only **root** can assign *negative* values.
- You can only **renice** a process *you* started.
    - Of course, **root** can **renice** *anything*.
- `renice 5 -p 10275`
    - Set the *niceness* of the process with **PID** `10275` to `5`.
    - Slightly lower than normal *niceness* (default: `0`).
- `renice 19 -u username`
    - Set *niceness* of **all** processes owned by **username** to `19`.

Ending Processes: I

Kill or Signal a Process

```
kill [-signal] <PID>
```

- Sends the specified **signal** to the process with id **PID**.
- By default (no **signal** given), it terminates execution.
  - **kill <PID>** same as **kill -15 <PID>**
  - Signal **15** is **SIGTERM** (signal terminate).

Kill all Processes by Name

```
killall [-signal] <name>
```

- Kills processes by **name**.
- By default (no **signal** given), it terminates execution.
  - **killall firefox** same as **kill -15 firefox**
  - Signal **15** is **SIGTERM** (signal terminate).

Useful Kill Signals

- Kill signals can be used by number or name.
- `TERM` or `15`: terminates execution (default signal sent with `kill` and `killall`).
- `HUP` or `1`: hang-up (restarts the program).
- `KILL` or `9`: like bleach, can kill anything.
- Some examples:

```
# Terminates process with PID 9009.
$ kill 9009

# REALLY kills the process with PID 3223.
$ kill -9 3223

# Restarts the process with PID 12221.
# Particularly useful for servers / daemon processes.
$ kill -HUP 12221
```

- Remember `top` and `htop`? They can both *renice* and *kill*

Jobs

What are Jobs?

- A job is a process running *under the influence* of a job control facility.
- Job control is a built-in feature of most shells, allowing the user to pause and resume tasks.
- The user can also run them in the background.
- Not covered here: `crontab`. For future sys admins, read the article in [1].

Intermission: An Infinite Command

- Let's use `ping` as an example.

Send Request Packets to Network Host

```
ping <server>
```

- Measure network response time (latency) to `<server>` and back.
- Sends short bursts to `<server>`, measures time until return.
- Example: `ping google.com`
    - Use `ctrl+c` to kill the process (`ping` runs until killed).

- The `ping` command will keep running indefinitely until stopped.

Why we Need Job Control

- As long as `ping` runs, we lose control of our shell.
- This happens with many other applications:
  - Moving / copying large quantities of files.
  - Compiling source code.
  - Playing multimedia.
  - Scientific computing.
  - `cat` with no arguments
- We need ways to control this while still being able to continue to use our terminal!

Starting a Job in the Background

Operator &

```
<command> [arguments] &
```

- Runs the specified **command** as a background job.
- Unless told otherwise, will send output to the terminal!
- Example: **mplayer best_song_ever.flac &**

- If you already started the job, use **ctrl+z** to pause it.

tee: split command output

```
tee <filename>
```

- Redirects output to **<filename>** *and* still prints it
- good for logging within a pipestream!

Sending a Job to the Background

Discovering your jobs

`jobs`

- Prints the running, paused, or recently stopped jobs.
- Prints jobs with their `JOB ID`s.

Background

`bg <JOB ID>`

- Resumes the job with id `JOB ID` in the *background*.
- Without `JOB ID`, resumes last job placed in background.

Foreground

`fg <JOB ID>`

- Resumes the job with id `JOB ID` in the *foreground*.
- Without `JOB ID`, resumes last job placed in the background.

Detaching Jobs

No Hangup

```
nohup <command> [args]
```

- *Background* jobs (started with &) end when terminal closed.
- **nohup** launches **command** so it will ignore **SIGHUP** signals.
- `nohup mplayer best_song_ever.flac >/dev/null 2>&1 &`

Disown a job

```
disown [flags] jobspec
```

- The **-h** flag prevents **jobspec** from **SIGHUP** killing it.
  - Use if you forgot to launch with **nohup**, for example.
- **jobspec** is the job number (e.g., execute **jobs** to find it).
- E.g., if **mplayer** has **jobID 1**, then **disown -h %1**

The `/proc` filesystem

- Everything in Linux is represented by a file
  - this includes your processes

```
$ ls /proc | head -3
1
10
10377
```

- These are all running processes!

what's in a process?

```
$ ls /proc/1
attr         coredump_filter  gid_map    mountinfo   ...
autogroup    cpuset           io         mounts      ...
auxv         cwd              limits     mountstats  ...
cgroup       environ          loginuid   net         ...
clear_refs   exe              map_files  ns          ...
cmdline      fd               maps       numa_maps   ...
comm         fdinfo           mem        oom_adj     ...
```

zooming in on that output

- `/proc/N/cwd` is the process's working directory
  - you can CD into it!
- `/proc/N/exe` is the program
- `/proc/N/fd` contains open files
  - Fun trick: open a file with `less`, then remove it, then look in `/proc/N/fd`
- `/proc/mem` is the live process memory!
- `man proc` for a lot more information!

Customizing your Terminal

What is it and Why?

- You will spend **a lot** of time in your terminal.
- It's worth spending a little time to configure it how you want.
- Customizations allow you to be
    1. More effective.
    2. Perform common operations more quickly.
    3. Make your terminal appear more comfortable *for you*.
    4. A super all-star-hacker-pro with l33t skillz.
- Think of it this way: it's like buying a new house. Paint the walls, build a tool shed, meet your neighbors, throw some parties. Why buy it if you weren't going to make it yours?
    - Why use the default terminal just because it came that way?

What are Dotfiles?

- "Dotfiles" change, add, or enhance existing functionality.
  - The files reside in your home (`~`) directory.
  - They are hidden files: their names start with a `.`
- Some common dotfiles you'll hear about:

`~/.bashrc`	Controls **`bash`** terminal behavior*
`~/.bash_profile`	Controls **`bash`** environment variables*
`~/.profile`	Controls **`shell`** environment variables*
`~/.vimrc`	Controls the behavior of **`vim`**
`~/.emacs`	Controls the behavior of **`emacs`**
`~/.gitconfig`	Controls the behavior of **`git`**
`~/.tmux.conf`	Controls the behavior of **`tmux`** (covered later)

- There are **many** possible dotfiles to customize.
- We will focus on configuring our shell (**`bash`**).

* What these *do* depends on what **you** write in them! See lecture demo.

A Reminder: common environment variables

- `$PATH`: where your shell looks to find programs
- `$EDITOR`: your preferred editor (defaults to nano)
- `$LANG`: your language and file encoding
- `$LD_LIBRARY_PATH`: where your dynamic libraries are (not always set)
- `$USER`: who you are
- `$HOME`: your home directory
- `$TERM`: how fancy your terminal can be
- `$MANPATH`: places to find man pages

The Source of All Things

- So we now know a little bit about how a script is structured.
- It just executes from the top to the bottom.
- The shebang says how to run it. But...

Execute source in Current Shell

```
source <filename> [arguments]
```

- *Executing* script **B** from script **A** runs **B** in a *subshell*.
- *Sourcing* script **B** from script **A** executes in *current shell*.
    - If script **B** `exit`s, then script **A** `exit`s!
- Think of it like copy-pasting **B** into **A** at the line where `source B` is written in **A**.
- Just like `#include <header.h>` in **C** if you know it.
- Fundamental to the initial shell setup process:
    - All dotfiles related to your **`shell`** are *sourced*.

What Happens When

- There is a **lot** going on with dotfiles; no “standard” protocol.
- What happens when depends on:
  1. Your operating system.
  2. The shell you are using.
  3. For graphical logins, what your desktop / window manager is.
- There is an important difference between types of shells:
  - There is a “login” shell, and a “interactive” shell.
  - “Login” shell: takes place *once*, when you login.
    - `~/.profile`, `~/.bash_profile`, `~/.zprofile`, depending on what your shell is.
  - “Interactive” shell: takes *every time* you spawn a new shell.
    - E.g. `ctrl+shift+n` on Linux, `cmd+n` on Mac.
    - Inherits all actions that took place at *login*.
    - `~/.bashrc`, `~/.zshrc` depending on what your shell is.

Login Actions: Precursor

- There is even still an important distinction:
  - A graphical login (logging in through the GUI).
  - A login shell (disabled GUI, or used `ssh` or something).
- Graphical logins:
  - I will not cover this. There is **way** too much going on.
  - Depends on what your GUI (Gnome, KDE, etc) is.
  - A **fantastic** explanation in [4].
    - Hey! Look around the rest of the site!
    - Lots of other *great* information available!!!
- Login shells:
  - For simplicity, assume that when you login through your GUI, it triggers a login shell to be called.
  - This is mostly true, but not exactly.
  - Discussion to come: Bourne shells (`bash`, `ksh`, ...) vs `zsh`
    - Only because Bourne shells and `zsh` are "incompatible".

Login Shells

- Where do the environment variables like **$PATH** come from?
- For Bourne Shells:
  1. System level configuration files are sourced. Same for all users.
     - The file **`/etc/profile`** is sourced.
     - Do **NOT** edit this file directly. It sources *anything* found in **`/etc/profile.d/*.sh`**. Put additional resources there.
     - This is where **PATH** among many other variables is getting set!
  2. User-level configuration files are sourced (if found).
     - **`bash`** looks for **`~/.bash_profile`** **first**. If it sees it, it sources it.
     - Only if **`bash`** does not find **`~/.bash_profile`**, it looks for **`~/.bash_login`** next and then **`~/.profile`** last.
     - **`ksh`**, on the other hand, only looks for **`~/.profile`**.
- For **`zsh`**, the same pattern occurs:
  1. System level configuration: **`/etc/zprofile`**.
     - Typically, it *emulates* **`ksh`** and sources **`/etc/profile`**!
  2. Look for **`~/.zprofile`**.

Know Your Shell

- `$SHELL` reports *your* default shell (`echo $SHELL`).
- How do I know what my shell looks for and in what order?
  - `man <shell>` and search for `INVOCATION` as well as `FILES`.
  - Or cruise the Arch Wiki – they're great! E.g. Arch on `zsh`.

Change your Login Shell

```
chsh -s /absolute/path/to/new/shell username
```

- GNU and BSD `chsh` are slightly different, **read the `man` page**!
- Example usage to change `$SHELL` for `username`:

  ```
  $ sudo chsh -s /bin/zsh username
  ```

- **Warning**: do **not** change the `$SHELL` of the `root` user!
- Typically, `chsh` will modify `/etc/passwd`
  - `grep` your `username` and read last field.

References (1 / 2)

[1] Computer Hope. *Linux and UNIX crontab command help and examples*. 2017. URL: http://www.computerhope.com/unix/ucrontab.htm.

[2] Stephen McDowell, Bruno Abrahao, Hussam Abu-Libdeh, Nicolas Savva, David Slater, and others over the years. "Previous Cornell CS 2043 Course Slides".

[3] Ramesh Natarajan. *Can You Top This? 15 Practical Linux Top Command Examples*. 2010. URL: http://www.thegeekstuff.com/2010/01/15-practical-unix-linux-top-command-examples/.

[4] Greg Wooledge. *Configuring your login sessions with dot files*. 2015. URL: http://mywiki.wooledge.org/DotFiles.