

Instructions for using pstree command on Linux

Pstree is a powerful and useful command to display processes running in Linux. Like the ps command, it shows all the processes that are currently active on your login system. The main difference is that when running the pstree command, processes are organized into tree sorting instead of lists like using the ps command.

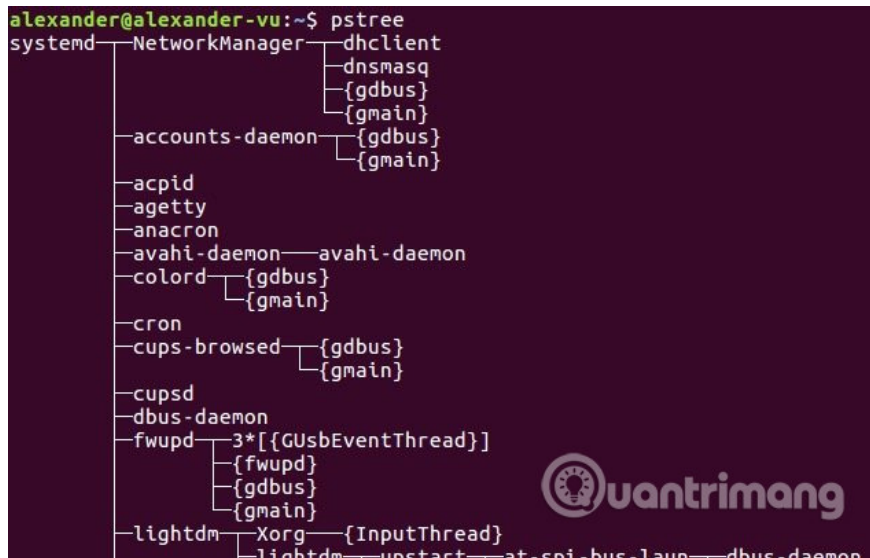
Pstree is a powerful and useful command to display processes running in Linux. Like the **ps** command, it shows all the processes that are currently active on your login system. The main difference is that when running the pstree command, processes are organized into tree sorting instead of lists like using the ps command. This tree displays processes in a parent-child relationship. The parent process is the process of creating all child processes below it.

The **pstree pf** structure is similar to the hierarchical directories on Unix systems like Linux and macOS. Using this structure, you can quickly navigate through the process tree to see which processes create or control each other, allowing the exact removal of processes that cause problems or are not controlled by the **kill** command. .

Run the command pstree

To run the basic form of this command, open the Terminal window and type the following command, then press **Enter** :

```
pstree
```



This command will display a list of all processes running on the system. The top process (in this case, systemd) is the parent process. The processes below it are created or opened via systemd. And branches from these

processes show similar relationships, like family trees.

Here is the basic structure of pstree:

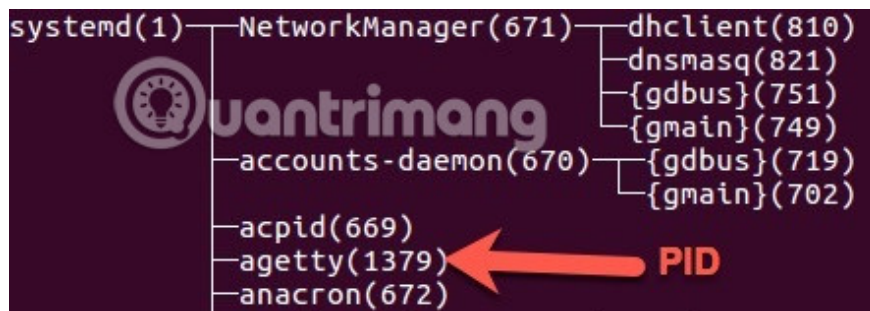
```
parent — child (1) — subchild (1) | | --subchild (2) | | -child (2)
```

By default processes generated from the same parent process will be ordered alphabetically. There are many other ways to sort in pstree using flags, we will discuss below.

Use pstree with flags

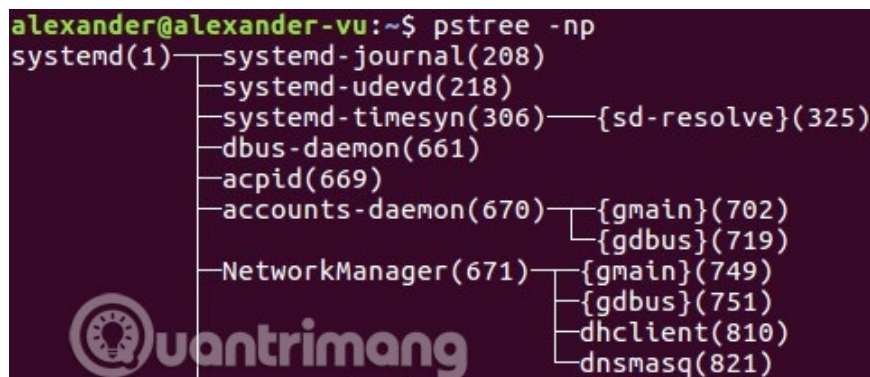
Like most Terminal programs, pstree can combine with different flags to create more complex output. To display process identification information, you can use the **-p** flag, display process identification number or PID.

```
pstree -p
```



You can sort progress by PID instead of name with **-n** flag.

```
pstree -np
```



You may have noticed, the pstree output is usually cut off at the terminal window. Therefore, you can 'pack' long result lines with the **-l** flag.

```
pstree -l
```


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