In Linux (UNIX) each process is identified by its **process identifier**, which is a unique integer. For example (`ps -A`):

PID	CMD
1	init
2	keventd
3	kapm-idled
4	ksoftirqd_CPU0
5	kswapd
6	kreclaimd
7	bdflush
8	kupdated
9	mdrecoveryd
13	kjournald
88	khubd
181	kjournald
712	adsl-connect
725	pppd
726	pppoe
850	syslogd
855	klogd
875	portmap
903	rpc.statd
1015	apmd

Init: is the parent of all processes. Its primary role is to create processes from a script stored in the file /etc/inittab. This file usually has entries which cause init to spawn gettys on each line that users can log in.

`(top)`

PID	PRI	SIZE	SHARE	STAT	CPU	MEM	COMMAND
1328	17	15916	2268	S	2.3	8.9	X
2294	11	1044	836	R	0.1	0.8	top
1	8	120	68	S	0.0	0.0	init
2	9	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	keventd
3	9	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	kapm-idled
5	9	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	kswapd
6	9	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	kreclaimd
7	9	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	bdflush
8	9	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	kupdated
9	-1	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	mdrecoveryd
13	9	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	kjournald
88	9	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	khubd
181	9	0	0	SW	0.0	0.0	kjournald
712	9	616	456	S	0.0	0.5	adsl-connect
725	8	528	392	S	0.0	0.4	pppd
726	9	100	56	S	0.0	0.0	pppoe
850	9	212	156	S	0.0	0.1	syslogd
855	9	988	336	S	0.0	0.6	klogd
875	9	84	4	S	0.0	0.0	portmap
903	9	384	268	S	0.0	0.2	rpc.statd
1015	9	212	188	S	0.0	0.1	apmd
1080	9	172	4	S	0.0	0.0	cardmgr
1113	9	696	512	S	0.0	0.4	xinetd
1139	8	624	456	S	0.0	0.4	lpd
1167	9	1436	880	S	0.0	0.9	sendmail
1186	9	100	44	S	0.0	0.0	gpm
1204	9	224	156	S	0.0	0.1	crond
1254	9	3988	1012	S	0.0	2.7	xfs
1290	9	100	44	S	0.0	0.0	atd
1313	9	64	4	S	0.0	0.0	mingetty
1314	9	64	4	S	0.0	0.0	mingetty
1315	9	64	4	S	0.0	0.0	mingetty
1316	9	64	4	S	0.0	0.0	mingetty
1317	9	64	4	S	0.0	0.0	mingetty
1318	9	64	4	S	0.0	0.0	mingetty
1319	9	1380	1232	S	0.0	1.0	gdm
1327	9	1912	1564	S	0.0	1.4	gdm

PID The process ID of each task.

PRI The priority of the task.

SIZE The size of the task's code plus data plus stack space, in kilobytes.

SHARE The amount of shared memory used by the task.

STAT The state of the task is shown here. The state is either S for sleeping, D for uninterruptible sleep, R for running, Z for zombies, or T for stopped or traced.

CPU The task's share of the CPU time since the last screen update, expressed as a percentage of total CPU time per processor.

MEM The task's share of the physical memory.

COMMAND The task's command name.