

NAME

timeout – Send a signal to a program after a certain time.

SYNOPSIS

```
timeout
  [-s signal]
  [-v]
  [-g]
  -t seconds | seconds
  program [args]
```

DESCRIPTION

timeout executes a program (with arguments *args*) and sends a signal to it after a certain amount of *seconds*.

OPTIONS

-s *signal*

Signal to send to the spawned process. This can be a numerical or symbolic ID. This defaults to TERM.

The default is TERM followed by KILL.

-t *seconds* | *seconds*

Number of seconds **timeout** waits for the program before sending a signal. You can use either **-t *seconds*** or just *seconds* without **-t**. The latter is for compatibility with Linux **timeout** program in *netatalk* package.

-g

Send signal to all processes in process group. If the program spawns new processes, all the processes in the group will be killed. Please see the example in **EXAMPLES** section below to decide when to use and not to use this option. This option is not used by default.

-v

Verbose mode.

EXAMPLES

timeout 10 pap foo.ps

Execute “pap foo.ps” and send a SIGTERM if pap doesn’t return after 10 seconds.

timeout -s HUP 60 sh

Spawn a shell and send a hangup signal after one minute.

timeout -s 9 10 evilprog

Execute a program and KILL it if it doesn’t quit after 10 seconds.

timeout -gv -s 15 -t 3 trap.ksh

Send a signal to a program which traps the signal:

```
trap 'echo got signal 15' 15
/bin/sleep 7
```

Because the program traps the signal, it is normal termination (not killed). Because **-g** is used, “/bin/sleep” child process is killed with return code 143 (128+15). Because “/bin/sleep” is the last statement in the trap.ksh script, its return code will be the return code of trap.ksh script. Therefore, you get:

```
"normal termination, exit status = 143."
```

(If you have “exit N” after /bin/sleep, then exit status of trap.ksh will be N.)

If you do not use **-g** option, “/bin/sleep” will NOT be killed, the trap.ksh will sleep for 7 seconds, and

terminate normally with exit status 0.

REVISION HISTORY

version 2.0, 2008-07-24, Michael Wang <xw73@columbia.edu>.

- Added compatibilities with Linux timeout program in *netatalk* package. Copied part of Linux source code and man page.
- Compatible exit code for killed program with shell.
- `-g` option.

version 1.1, 1998-04, Michael Wang <xw73@columbia.edu>.

- Incorporated code from Stefan 'Sec' Zehl <sec@42.org>: "It prints to stderr now and has a switch to remain completely silent. It compiles on BSD the way it is now, and a small buglet (when omitting `-t` it cored here) was fixed."
- `setpgrp` was added. `kill(-pid, signal)` was used to kill the ps group.

version 1.0, 1998-02, Michael Wang <xw73@columbia.edu>.

IPO.