

## pstree (display a tree of processes)

Like `→ps`, *pstree* lists the processes running on a system, but it formats its output as a tree. This is useful for getting a quick overview of the dependencies that exist between processes, which may have parent and child processes. When process A launches process B, we say that A becomes B's parent.

At the root of the process tree is *init*, the ancestor of all processes. When Linux starts up, *init* is the first process that is created. It always gets the process ID 1 and goes on to launch the processes that are necessary for the system's basic functioning. When a parent process dies, its children are adopted by *init*.