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How can I find out who is using a file or device?

Keywords

unix odt **fuser** dev tty filesystem console devices ttys filesystems processes ports devices serial root process ps

Release

SCO UNIX System V/386 Release 3.2 Operating System Version 4.2 and earlier
SCO Open Desktop Release 3.0 and earlier

Problem

I want to tell which users and processes are using a particular file or device. Optionally, I want to kill all of the processes which have that file or device open.

Solution

The [fuser\(ADM\)](#) utility can be used to resolve this problem. **fuser** may be used to determine the processes that are using a device file, a regular file, or a non-NFS filesystem.

NOTE: (1) Although [fuser\(ADM\)](#) is available under SCO UNIX Operating System Version 2.0, there is no man page for it.

(2) A user must be a member of the group mem to use [fuser\(ADM\)](#).

(3) Only the superuser may terminate other users' processes.

Examples:

```
fuser /dev/tty1a          show processes associated with
                           tty1a (non-modem control port)
```

```
with fuser /dev/tty1A      show processes associated
                           tty1A (modem control port)
```

```
fuser /dev/root          show processes on root
                           filesystem
```

fuser -u /dev/ttyla show processes and the associated user on COM1

fuser -u /dev/tty[!p]* 2>&1 | pg show processes and users for all tty devices, exclude pseudo tty's, redirect to pager (/bin/ksh or /bin/sh)

fuser -u /dev/tty[0-oq-z]* |& pg show processes and users for all tty devices, exclude pseudo tty's, redirect to pager (/bin/csh)

fuser -u /dev/tty* 2>&1 | tee log show processes and users for all tty devices, include pseudo tty's, redirect to a log file for further study (/bin/ksh or /bin/sh)

fuser -u /dev/tty* |& tee log show processes and users for all tty devices, include pseudo tty's, redirect to a log file for further study (/bin/csh)

fuser -k /dev/ttyla show processes on ttyla, send a [kill\(S\)](#) signal to processes and all subprocesses

Sample Output

```
# fuser /dev/ttyla
/dev/ttyla:      9075      9076

# fuser -u /dev/ttyla
/dev/ttyla:      9075 (root)    9076 (root)

# fuser /dev/tty[!p]* 2>&1 | pg
/dev/tty01:      6204      6204      6204      9075      9075      9075
/dev/tty02:      8936      8936      8936      9116      9117
/dev/tty03:      8941      8941      8941

|
/dev/tty12:      348       348       348
/dev/tty1A:
/dev/tty1a:      9075      9076
/dev/tty2A:
/dev/tty2a:
(EOF) :

# fuser -u /dev/tty[!p]* 2>&1 | pg
/dev/tty01:      6204 (root)    6204 (root)    6204 (root)    9075 (root)
9075 (root)      9075 (root)    9076 (root)    9076 (root)    9076 (root)
/dev/tty02:      8936 (root)    8936 (root)    8936 (root)    9125 (root)
9126 (root)
/dev/tty03:      8941 (root)    8941 (root)    8941 (root)
```

```
|
/dev/tty12:      348 (root)      348 (root)      348 (root)
/dev/tty1A:
/dev/tty1a:      9075 (root)     9076 (root)
/dev/tty2A:
/dev/tty2a:
(EOF) :
```

See Also

[fuser\(ADM\)](#) (except for Version 2.0); [kill\(S\)](#)

TA104301 created on 25 June 1993 , last updated on 10 February 2000

SSL #: 482158 IT #: os2158

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