

List usernames instead of uids with the ps command for long usernames

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Have you ever faced such a situation. You have usernames in your `/etc/passwd` file with more than 8 characters. This is no problem for Linux at all, usernames may be up to 32 characters long, only your `ps` output might look a little scrambled.

It shows you the uid instead of the username like in the following example:

```
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$ id
uid=20001(longuser01) gid=10002(oinstall)
groups=10002(oinstall)

$ sleep 1000000 &

$ ps -ef | grep sleep | grep -v grep

20001  14069 11739  0 14:11 pts/0    00:00:00
sleep 1000000
```

But you want to see the username instead of the uid. The workaround is

- Don't use more than eight characters for your usernames 😊
- Or format your ps output the right way

You could use the following alias to get the job done.

```
1
2                                     $ alias psx='export PS_FORMAT="user:12,pid,%cp
3                                     u,%mem,vsz,rss,tt,stat,start,time,command"; ps ax'
4
5                                     $ psx | grep sleep | grep -v grep
                                     longuser01 14069  0.0  58940 520 pts/0 S 14:11:50
                                     sleep 1000000
```

Now it looks better.

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