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

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Have your 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:

| 1 2 | \$ id |
|--------|--|
| 3 | uid=20001(longuser01) gid=10002(oinstall) groups=10002(oinstall) |
| 5 | \$ sleep 1000000 & |
| 8 | \$ ps -ef grep sleep grep -v grep |
| | 20001 14069 11739 0 14:11 pts/0 00:00:00 sleep 1000000 |

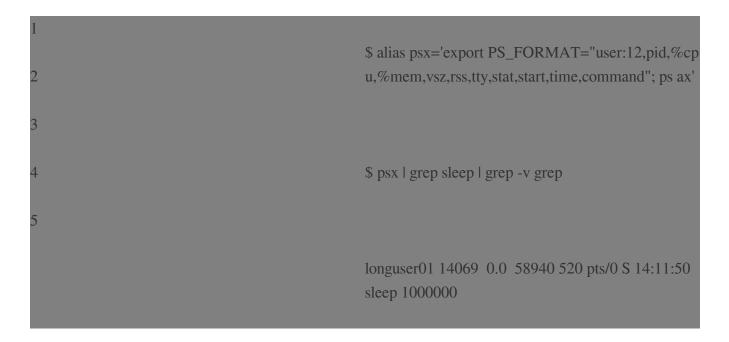
But you want to see the username instead of the uid. The workaround is

• 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.



Now it looks better.

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