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Jobs - the basics of job control

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Every command you give is a job that is executed. A job can be suspended, placed in the background, moved back to the foreground or terminated.

Most commands like `ls` are executed fast, but things like moving huge files occupy your terminal for quite a while. In these cases the job can be placed in the background, allowing you to execute other commands in the meantime.

While running a command (job) you can pause/suspend it with `ctrl-z` and kill it with `ctrl-c`.

While running a job you can	Shortcut
suspend a job	<code>ctrl -z</code>
terminate a job	<code>ctrl -c</code>

When a job is suspended it can be moved back to the foreground with ``fg`` and placed in the background (where it will continue to execute) with ``bg``.

Function	Command
Move a suspended job to the foreground	<code>fg</code>
Continue a suspended job in the background	<code>bg</code>
List all jobs	<code>jobs</code>
Kill a job (<code>%N</code> where <code>N</code> is the job number)	<code>kill %N &&</code> <code>fg</code>
Start a job directly in the background	<code>command &</code>

How to run, suspend and continue a command in the background

Examples of how to run a job in the background:

```
$ cp video.avi /pub/videos
Ctrl-z
[1]+  Stopped  cp video.avi /pub/videos
$
[1]+  cp video.avi /pub/videos
$ bg
$
[1]+  Done    cp video.avi /pub/videos
```

Putting a job in the background with `&` when executing

```
$ cp video.avi /pub/videos &
```

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```
[1] 6510
$ jobs
[1]+  cp video.avi /pub/videos &
$
[1]+  Done cp video.avi /pub/videos &
```

Killing a running job

```
$ cp video.avi /pub/videos
Ctrl-z
$ kill %1 && fg
cp video.avi /pub/videos
Terminated
```

Note that `jobs` applies to the running jobs in your current shell, use `top` or `ps -aux` to list all the running jobs on your computer.

The latest version of this documents is available at linuxreviews.org.

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