

current: p = NULL  
child: pid = 0

# PLAY WITH THIS !

## #1 The fork-and-wait pattern

```

pid_t p = fork();
if (p == -1) { fail; }
if (p == 0) { execvp("ls", "ls", ...);
    exit(1); } skip parent
waitpid(p, &status, 0); status from child
  
```

<https://android.googlesource.com/platform/prebuilts/gcc/linux-x86/host/i686-linux-glibc2.7/>

```

/* If WIFEXITED(STATUS), the low-order 8 bits of the status. */
#define __WEXITSTATUS(status) ((status) & 0xff00) >> 8

/* If WIFSIGNALED(STATUS), the terminating signal. */
#define __WTERMSIG(status) ((status) & 0x7f)

/* If WIFSTOPPED(STATUS), the signal that stopped the child. */
#define __WSTOPSIG(status) __WEXITSTATUS(status)

/* Nonzero if STATUS indicates normal termination. */
#define __WIFEXITED(status) (__WTERMSIG(status) == 0)
  
```

## #2 The fork-exec-wait trilogy

fork Are variables shared? Yes

exec When does exec return?

waitpid Purpose? Not executing current process until it checks the exit status of other processes.

## #3 What happened to your child? - use the wait macros to extract bits

```

pid_t waitpid(pid_t pid, int * status, int options);

// Decoding the bits of the status integer
01   int s;
02   waitpid(child, &s, 0 );
03   WEXITSTATUS(s)      valid if WIFEXITED(s) != 0
04   WTERMSIG(s)        valid if WIFSIGNALED(s) != 0
  
```

## #4 Who is my parent?

```

01   pid_t vader = getppid();
02   pid_t luke = getpid();
  
```

happens in while.

(c=1) fork

(c=2) fork

rest

rest.

fork.

rest.

## #5 Madness - What does this do and how?

```

01   int main(int c, char **v) {
02       while (-c > 1 && !fork()); →
03       int val = atoi(v[c]); ↑ only parent escapes.
04       sleep(val);
05       printf("%d\n", val);
06       return 0;
07   }
  
```

## #6 Puzzle - Two processes for the price of one program

```

01   char * m = "World";
02   int main() {
03       int a = 0;
04       pid_t f = fork();
05       if(f == -1) { perror("fork failed!"); exit(1); }

06       if(f == 0) /* child process */ m = "Hello"; →
07       else { // I'm the parent
08           printf("Waiting for %ld to finish", (long)f);
09           int status;
10           waitpid(f, &status, 0); ← WIFEXITED |
11           try < WEXITSTATUS.
12       }
13       puts(m);
14   }
  
```

Post lecture challenge 1. Write a forking program where the parent process creates N child processes.

or...

Post lecture Challenge 2. Write a forking program that creates a chain of N processes i.e. each process, except the last, has one child process.  
(See if you can work this out yourself first before looking at my svn example)

## ~~#7~~ A program to automatically compile and execute my programs

```
01 char * compiler = "gcc";
02 int main(int argc, char** argv) {
03     if(argc != 2) {
04         fprintf(stderr,"%s prog.c",argv[0]);
05         exit(1);
06     }
07     char* target = argv[1];
08     while(1) {
09         pid_t child = fork();
10         if(child==0) { // I'm the child
11             execlp(compiler, compiler, "-g", target, (char*)NULL);
12             perror(compiler);
13             exit(1);
14         }
15         int status=0;
16
17
18         if(                                     ) break;
19         sleep(5);
20     }
21     puts("running your program"); // no flush!?
22     execlp("./a.out","./a.out", (const char*)NULL);
23     perror("Failed to run ./a.out");
24     return 1;
25 }
```

## #8 What happens to child processes if their parents die first?

orphans! Re-adopted by pid 1

#9 What happens if the parent never finishes and never waits on its children?

Zombies! Wants for some "waitpid"

## #10 What is SIGCHLD ?

## #11 C Review / FAQ

What is special about `sizeof(char)` ?

```
int * x = 0x12340;
```

On a 32 bit machine, what is the value of  $(x + 1) \oplus x$  12344

## Spot the mistake(s)!

```
01     double *a = malloc( sizeof(double*) );
02     double *b = a;
03     free(b); b = 0;
04     *a = (double) 0xbaadf00d;
05
06     char* result;
07     strcpy(result, "CrashMaybe");
08
09     void* append(char** ptr, const char*mesg) {
10         if(!*ptr)  ptr = malloc( strlen(mesg) );
11         strcat( *ptr, mesg);
12     }
13 }
```