

Change to "kludge option processing" in /bin/ps

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/arch/2004-05/0076.html>

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To: arch@FreeBSD.ORG

After staring at the kludge-option processing in `ps' for awhile, I found enough edge-cases where it simply did not work "right" (for my definition of "right", at least...), so I rewrote it. As part of that, I also removed the ancient "BACKWARD_COMPATIBILITY" compile-time option, where:

```
ps -options arg1 arg2
(with no '-' on "arg1" and "arg2") was treated as:
ps -options -N arg1 -M arg2
```

I did this because I have often been puzzled/annoyed when I type:

```
ps 12
to get process 12, and then realize I wanted it shown in a
different format so I type:
ps -u 12
and I get a completely different list of processes, or I type:
ps 12 34
and I only see process 12, or I type
ps 12 34 56
```

and get the error message:

```
ps: 56: No such file or directory
This BACKWARD_COMPATIBILITY is not documented in the usage()
or the man page, so I'd like to replace it.
```

So, I changed `ps' to check for any additional arguments after processing all '-'-options, and if those start with a digit then `ps' will try to use the entire argument as a pid or pidlist. If an extra argument does not start with a digit, then `ps' just prints an error and exits.

I want to do more testing on this before committing, but I thought that all this was enough of a change that I should also give people a chance to scream before I commit it. Also, I'm not sure if I might have clobbered some subtle aspect of the kludge processing.

If anyone wants to try the update, it is available at:

<http://people.freebsd.org/~gad/ps-kludge.diff>

freebsd-arch: Change to "kludge option processing" in /bin/ps

[disclaimer: at the moment it's only had about 15 minutes of testing, but I *think* this is about the way I want it to work]

Assuming there aren't any major objections to these ideas, I plan to do some more testing on this and commit it next weekend.

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