

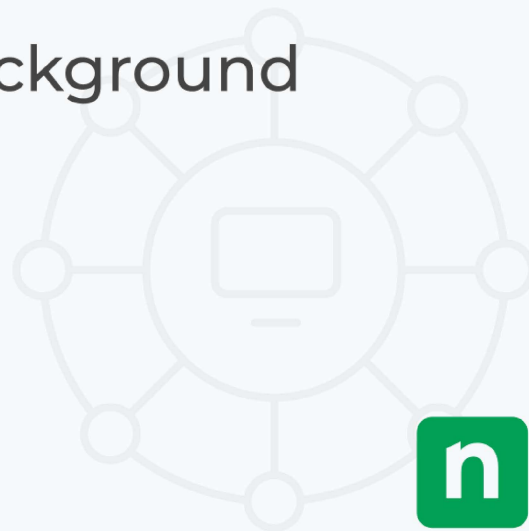
[Blog \(https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/\)](https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/) / [IT Glossary \(https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/category/it-glossary/\)](https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/category/it-glossary/) /
What Is a Background Process?



by [Lauren Ballejos \(https://www.ninjaone.com/author/lauren/\)](https://www.ninjaone.com/author/lauren/)

What Is a Background Process?

What Is a Background Process?



[IT Glossary \(https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/category/it-glossary/\)](https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/category/it-glossary/) | Last updated December 8, 2023

On endpoint devices (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-endpoint-device-overview-for-it-pros/>), there are countless processes happening simultaneously. Some are visible to users, others remain hidden but play crucial roles in ensuring smooth computer operations. One such invisible yet essential element is the **background process**.

What is a background process?

A background process, as the name suggests, operates behind the scenes. It is a computer process that runs independently of the user interface, meaning it does not require user intervention to function. These processes are often initiated by the system and continue to run until they have fulfilled their purpose or until the system is shut down.

What is a background process used for?

+1 888 542 8339 (tel:+18885428339)

English



Background processes have a multitude of uses. They handle tasks such as memory management, system updates, virus scans, and more. These processes do not require direct user interaction. By running these tasks in the background, the computer system ensures that the user experience remains uninterrupted and seamless.

Try it now, FREE! (<https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/>)

How do background processes work?

The functioning of background processes is quite fascinating. The operating system schedules these processes based on priority and available resources. Once initiated, these processes run independently, using system resources but not interfering with the user's work. They communicate with other processes and the operating system to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Different types of background processes

- **Daemon processes**

Daemon processes are a type of background process that start when the system boots up and run continuously without any intervention until the system shuts down. They handle tasks like network connections, printing services, and email delivery.

- **Scheduled processes**

Scheduled processes perform specific tasks at predetermined times. They can be set up to run daily, weekly, or at any other interval. Examples include automatic patching (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/automated-patch-management-is-critical-for-modern-it-operations/>), updates, and backups.

- **Service processes**

Service processes are those that provide services to other software. They run in the background and are usually started and stopped by the operating system as needed. For example, a database service process might run in the background to manage access to a database.

- **System processes**

System processes are responsible for managing and controlling hardware and system resources. They are vital for the functioning of the operating system.

The background process: A critical part of any IT system

Background processes are a crucial part of any computer system. While they may remain unseen, their role in ensuring smooth and efficient computer operations cannot be understated. As technology continues to advance, the role of these background processes will only become more integral in maintaining the seamless user experience we have come to expect.

ninjaOne [Next Steps](https://www.ninjaone.com) (<https://www.ninjaone.com>)

Try it now, FREE! (<https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/>)

Building an efficient and effective IT team requires a centralized solution that acts as your core service deliver tool. NinjaOne enables IT teams to monitor, manage, secure, and support all their devices, wherever they are, without the need for complex on-premises infrastructure.

Learn more about [NinjaOne Endpoint Management](https://www.ninjaone.com/endpoint-management/) (<https://www.ninjaone.com/endpoint-management/>), check out a [live tour](https://www.ninjaone.com/endpoint-management-interactive-demo/) (<https://www.ninjaone.com/endpoint-management-interactive-demo/>), or [start your free trial of the NinjaOne platform](https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/) (<https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/>).

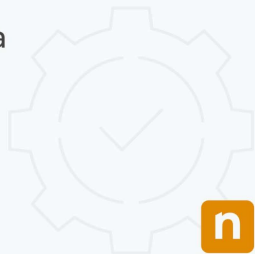
Start your Free Trial
([freetrialform/](https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/))

CATEGORY: [IT GLOSSARY](https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/category/it-glossary/) (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/category/it-glossary/>)



YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

What Is Data Annotation?



([https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-data-](https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-data-annotation/)

[annotation/](https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-data-annotation/))

What Is Data Annotation? (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-data-annotation/>)

What Is Wi-Fi Halow?



(<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-wi-fi-halow/>)

What Is Wi-Fi Halow? (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-wi-fi-halow/>)

ninjaOne
What Is Virtual Memory?
(<https://www.ninjaone.com>)

+1 888 542-8339

M-F / 8am-7pm (tel:+18885428339)

English



Try it now, FREE! (<https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/>)



memory/)

What Is Virtual Memory? (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-virtual-memory/>)

What Is Malvertising?



(<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-malvertising/>)

What Is Malvertising? (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-malvertising/>)

What Is a Thin Client?



(<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-a-thin-client/>)

What Is a Thin Client? (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-a-thin-client/>)

What Is a Cloud Access Security Broker (CASB)?



(<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-a-cloud-access-security-broker/>)

security-broker/)

What Is a Cloud Access Security Broker (CASB)? (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/what-is-a-cloud-access-security-broker/>)

Monitor, manage, and secure any device, anywhere

NinjaOne gives you complete visibility and control over all your devices for more efficient management.

[See how \(https://www.ninjaone.com/what-is-rmm-software-2/\)](https://www.ninjaone.com/what-is-rmm-software-2/)

English

**ninjaOne** (<https://www.ninjaone.com>)[Try it now, FREE! \(https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/\)](https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/)

Too many tools in too many places?

See how tool sprawl impacts IT and what you can do to solve it.

[Read the guide \(https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/how-to-use-nmap-complete-guide-with-examples/image2-2/\)](https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/how-to-use-nmap-complete-guide-with-examples/image2-2/)[\(https://go.ninjaone.com/sysadmin-software-guide/\)](https://go.ninjaone.com/sysadmin-software-guide/)

Ready to become an IT Ninja?

Learn how NinjaOne can help you simplify IT operations.

[Start a Free Trial \(/freetrialform/\)](/freetrialform/)[Get a demo \(/free-demo/\)](/free-demo/)

North America: +1 888 542-8339 (tel:+18885428339)

Germany: +49 30-76758700 (tel:+493076758700)

UK: +44 20 3880 9027 (tel:+442038809027)

France: +33 800 91 09 90 (tel:+33800910990)

Spain: +34 900 83 91 93 (tel:+34932209081)

Italy: 800 974 708 (tel:800974708)

APAC: +61 1800 490 516 (tel:+611800490516)

sales@ninjaone.com (mailto:sales@ninjaone.com)

PRODUCTS
ninjaOne (<https://www.ninjaone.com>)
NinjaOne RMM (<https://www.ninjaone.com/rmm/>)

Try it now, FREE! (<https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/>)

NinjaOne Endpoint Management (<https://www.ninjaone.com/endpoint-management/>)

NinjaOne Patch Management (<https://www.ninjaone.com/patch-management/>)

NinjaOne Ticketing (</ticketing-software/>)

NinjaOne Documentation (<https://www.ninjaone.com/it-documentation/>)

NinjaOne Remote Access (</remote-access/>)

NinjaOne Backup (<https://www.ninjaone.com/backup/>)

Product Roadmap (<https://www.ninjaone.com/roadmap/>)

RESOURCES

Resource Center (</resources>)

Blog (<https://www.ninjaone.com/blog/>)

Developer API (<https://app.ninjammm.com/apidocs/>)

System Status (<https://status.ninjaone.com/>)

COMPANY

About Us (<https://www.ninjaone.com/about-us/>)

Community (<https://www.ninjaone.com/community/>)

FAQ (<https://www.ninjaone.com/faq/>)

In the News (</press/>)

Careers (<https://www.ninjaone.com/careers/>)

License (<https://www.ninjaone.com/license-agreement/>)

COMPLIANCE

Privacy Policy (<https://www.ninjaone.com/privacy-policy/>)

NIST CSF v1.1 (<https://www.ninjaone.com/nist-cyber-security-framework-version-1-1/>)

NIST SP 800-171r1 (<https://www.ninjaone.com/nist-special-publication-800-171-revision-1/>)

NIST SP 800-53r4 (<https://www.ninjaone.com/nist-special-publication-800-53-revision-4/>)

HIPAA (<https://www.ninjaone.com/hipaa/>)

Bug Bounty (<https://www.ninjaone.com/product-security/>)

Australian Cyber Security Centre's Essential Eight (<https://www.ninjaone.com/essential-eight/>)

Modern Slavery Statement (<https://www.ninjaone.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Joint-AU-UK-Modern-Slavery-Statement.pdf>)

CA Privacy Rights (<https://www.ninjaone.com/privacy-policy/#ca-residents>)

Your Privacy Choices   (<https://www.ninjaone.com/your-privacy-choices/>)

Cookie Preferences

Try it now, FREE! (<https://www.ninjaone.com/freetrialform/>)