

What is the strangest sorting algorithm?



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Answered Thu · Upvoted by Tim Farage, [Senior Lecturer, Computer Science Dept., UT Dallas](#)

Invented on 4chan by some anonymous poster, I bring you **sleep sort**.

Genius sorting algorithm: Sleep sort

1 Name: **Anonymous** 2011-01-20 12:22

Man, am I a genius. Check out this sorting algorithm I just invented.

```
#!/bin/bash
function f() {
    sleep "$1"
    echo "$1"
}
while [ -n "$1" ]
do
    f "$1" &
    shift
done
wait
```

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```
./sleepsort.bash 5 3 6 3 6 3 1 4 7
```

The algorithm basically works like this:

For every element x in an array, start a new program that:

- Sleeps for x seconds
- Prints out x

The clock starts on all the elements at the same time.

It works for any array that has non-negative numbers.

Not every day that you invent a sorting algorithm on an online forum.

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