

## How to write a shell script that gets executed on login?

Asked 11 years, 10 months ago   Modified 1 month ago   Viewed 207k times

I am trying to write bash shell script in Ubuntu 11.10 Linux distro, that will get executed automatically on logging into the system. But I am not able to figure out that what to write in script that by it will get automatically executed on logging in.

44

ubuntu   shell-script   login   profile



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edited Jul 25, 2015 at 18:07



Mikel

57.8k   15   134   153

asked Nov 19, 2012 at 9:01



dubex

681   2   6   6

1   The solution would vary depending on what "log in" actually means. If it means "starting a login shell (in a terminal, for example)", then most of the answers below would help, but if you mean that the script should run as soon as you log into a graphical desktop environment, without ever starting a terminal or shell session, then you may want to clarify this in the question. – Kusananda ♦ Apr 19, 2023 at 4:19

### 6 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ⬆

If you want it to be global, modify



63

```
/etc/profile
```



or add a script to



```
/etc/profile.d
```

If you want it to be user-specific, modify

```
~/.profile
```

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edited Jun 11, 2021 at 7:31



Skaldebane

5   3

answered Nov 19, 2012 at 10:14



wei2912

747   4   4

3   Don't forget that the extension should be `.sh` if you put your script inside of `/etc/profile.d/`. `chmod +x /etc/profile.d/myscript.sh` of course too. – Brian Cannard Aug 4, 2017 at 22:59

1   Raspbian Stretch. Trying to run `/usr/local/bin/pihole -c` command on autologin of specific user. Added this line to `/home/$USER/.profile` - nothing happens. When I add script to `/etc/profile.d` then it works, but it's global and runs it even when I open ssh session(which is not what I want). Adding to `.bashrc` works too, but runs any time I open new shell (which is no what I want). Question: Why adding to `/home/$USER/.profile` wouldn't work??? – Drew Apr 18, 2018 at 8:08

1   @BrianCannard it should be corrected as `chmod +x /etc/profile.d/myscript.sh` – prab4th May 13, 2022 at 1:21

This would run the script every time the user starts a login shell, regardless of whether they have just logged in or not. It is unclear whether it would run when the user logs in (e.g. via a graphical display manager; it would depend on the setup of their system). – Kusananda ♦ Apr 19, 2023 at 4:23



`/etc/profile` OR `$HOME/.profile` OR `$HOME/.bash_profile`


4

I would highly recommend against using `/etc/profile.d/yourscript.sh` if it produces output. When you use a non-interactive session, you will receive a `$TERM is not set` message. This is noticeable when using the ssh protocol, like scp. Usually not a big deal, however, Veeam doesn't like it and will throw a warning. I know Veeam is not the topic here, but it's worth mentioning that not all applications will gracefully ignore the `$TERM is not set` warning.

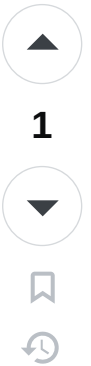
In short, if the script generates output, place it in the locations specified on the first line. However, if you're modifying the environment and your script doesn't generate output, then use the latter.

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answered Jun 20, 2019 at 5:23

 **Hickory420**  
87 ● 3

Whether or not this would be executed when the user logs in depends on whether the user starts a login shell or not (which they might not do if they log in via a graphical display manager). It is unclear from the question what the user means by "logging in". In any case, your suggestion would mean the script is run each time the user starts a login script, not just when logging in. – [Kusalananda](#) ♦ Apr 19, 2023 at 4:26



In Debian/Ubuntu, just add your script to System settings > Workspace > Startup and Shutdown > Autostart.

1


This setting is written to smth like `~/.config/autostart/myscript.sh.desktop`.

Google [says](#) this works with default Window Managers in KDE, Gnome, Mate etc., but doesn't work with WMs without Session Manager like `Leftwm`, `Spectrwm`, `xmonad`, `bspwm`, `dwm`, `i3wm`, etc. For those one can try to autostart stuff by adding `systemd` targets and make them depend on graphical enviroment (Gnome, etc.), which is also run by `systemd`.

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edited Aug 29 at 13:10

answered Aug 28 at 18:55

 **arcadius**  
11 ● 2

Does this really run the script upon *login*? (And, can you be specific about what kind of "login"?) Or is it only system startup, as the name suggests? – [G-Man Says 'Reinstate Monica'](#) Aug 28 at 20:46

The setting is written to smth like `~/.config/autostart/myscript.sh.desktop`, so yes, it's a login stuff. Google [says](#) this works with default Window Managers in KDE, Gnome, Mate etc., but doesn't work with WMs without Session Manager like `Leftwm`, `Spectrwm`, `xmonad`, `bspwm`, `dwm`, `i3wm`, etc. For those one can try to autostart stuff by adding `systemd` targets, depending on graphical enviroment (Gnome, etc.), which is also run by `systemd`. – [arcadius](#) Aug 28 at 21:21

Good answer, but please don't add details/clarifications in a comment. Instead, update your answer so it stands well by itself – [Chris Davies](#) Aug 29 at 7:07



If you want to be more bash specific you can also write you code in `~/.bash_profile` or `~/.bash_login`.

0


And you can source any script therein for example:

```
if [ -f ~/.bashrc ]; then
    source ~/.bashrc
fi
```

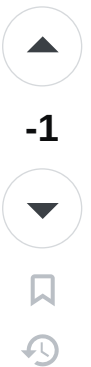
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edited Jul 28, 2015 at 9:01

answered Jul 25, 2015 at 18:06

 **Dieter.Wilhelm**  
133 ● 9

3 This execute on bash initialize, not in user login, by example using `gdm`. – [e-info128](#) May 30, 2020 at 0:31



Just a data point since the question is tagged Ubuntu.

-1

Under Ubuntu 20.04 and 22.04, the only option to autoloading of a script/command at each login is (that worked for me) to add it in

`~/.bash_profile`

As stated in the comments, adding it to `~/.profile` doesn't seem to invoke the script. Adding it to `/etc/profile.d/` is not per login.

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answered Mar 19, 2022 at 15:26

 **tinlyx**  
986 ● 2 ● 14 ● 27



-3



To execute a shell script on login in Ubuntu 11.10, you can add your script to the `~/.bashrc` file. This file is executed each time a login shell starts up, so any commands or scripts added here will be run whenever you log in to your system. To add your script to `~/.bashrc`, Open a terminal and navigate to your home directory by typing: `cd ~/` Next, open the `.bashrc` file in a text editor using the following command: `nano ~/.bashrc` Once you have the file open, navigate to the end of the file and add the following line: `/path/to/your/script.sh` Make sure to replace `/path/to/your/script.sh` with the actual path to your script. Also, make sure that your script is executable by running: `chmod +x /path/to/your/script.sh` Save and close the file, and the next time you log in, your script should be executed automatically. Let me know if it works for you!

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answered Apr 19, 2023 at 3:46



user569427

1

3 The `~/.bashrc` file is sourced each time an interactive shell is started, no matter if the user has just logged in or not. – Kusananda ♦ Apr 19, 2023 at 4:21