



# Shell Programming



# Shell Scripts (1)

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- ◆ Basically, a shell script is a text file with Unix commands in it.
- ◆ Shell scripts usually begin with a `#!` and a shell name
  - For example: `#!/bin/sh`
  - If they do not, the user's current shell will be used
- ◆ Any Unix command can go in a shell script
  - Commands are executed in order or in the flow determined by control statements.
- ◆ Different shells have different control structures
  - The `#!` line is very important
  - We will write shell scripts with the Bourne shell (`sh`)

# Shell Scripts (2)

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## ◆ Why write shell scripts?

- To avoid repetition:

- ❖ If you do a sequence of steps with standard Unix commands over and over, why not do it all with just one command?

- To automate difficult tasks:

- ❖ Many commands have subtle and difficult options that you don't want to figure out or remember every time.

# A Simple Example (1)

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- ◆ `tr abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz \`  
`thequickbrownfxjimpsvalzydg < file1 > file2`
  - “encrypts” file1 into file2
- ◆ Record this command into shell script files:
  - myencrypt  
`#!/bin/sh`  
`tr abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz \`  
`thequickbrownfxjimpsvalzydg`
  - mydecrypt  
`#!/bin/sh`  
`tr thequickbrownfxjimpsvalzydg \`  
`abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz`

## A Simple Example (2)

- ◆ **chmod** the files to be executable; otherwise, you couldn't run the scripts

```
obelix[3] > chmod u+x myencrypt mydecrypt
```

- ◆ Run them as normal commands:

```
obelix[4] > ./myencrypt < file1 > file2
```

```
obelix[5] > ./mydecrypt < file2 > file3
```

```
obelix[6] > diff file1 file3
```



**Remember: This is needed  
when “.” is not in the path**

# Bourne Shell Variables

- ◆ Remember: Bourne shell variables are different from variables in csh and tcsh!

– Examples in sh:

PATH=\$PATH:\$HOME/bin

HA=\$1

PHRASE="House on the hill"

export PHRASE

Note: no space  
around =

Make PHRASE an  
environment variable

# Assigning Command Output to a Variable

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- ◆ Using backquotes, we can assign the output of a command to a variable:

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
files=`ls`
```

```
echo $files
```

- ◆ Very useful in numerical computation:

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
value=`expr 12345 + 54321`
```

```
echo $value
```

# Using expr for Calculations

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## ◆ Variables as arguments:

```
% count=5
```

```
% count=`expr $count + 1`
```

```
% echo $count
```

```
6
```

- Variables are replaced with their values by the shell!

## ◆ expr supports the following operators:

- arithmetic operators: +, -, \*, /, %
- comparison operators: <, <=, ==, !=, >=, >
- boolean/logical operators: &, |
- parentheses: (, )
- precedence is the same as C, Java



# Control Statements

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- ◆ Without control statements, execution within a shell script flows from one statement to the next in succession.
- ◆ Control statements control the flow of execution in a programming language
- ◆ The three most common types of control statements:
  - conditionals: if/then/else, case, ...
  - loop statements: while, for, until, do, ...
  - branch statements: subroutine calls (good), goto (bad)

# for Loops

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- ◆ for loops allow the repetition of a command for a specific set of values

- ◆ Syntax:

```
for var in value1 value2 ...
```

```
do
```

```
    command_set
```

```
done
```

- command\_set is executed with each value of var (value1, value2, ...) in sequence

# for Loop Example (1)

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```
#!/bin/sh
# timestable – print out a multiplication table
for i in 1 2 3
do
    for j in 1 2 3
    do
        value=`expr $i \* $j`
        echo -n "$value "
    done
    echo
done
```

## for Loop Example (2)

---

```
#!/bin/sh
# file-poke – tell us stuff about files
files=`ls`
for i in $files
do
    echo -n "$i "
    grep $i $i
done
```

- Find filenames in files in current directory

## for Loop Example (3)

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```
#!/bin/sh
# file-poke – tell us stuff about files
for i in *; do
    echo -n "$i "
    grep $i $i
done
```

- Same as previous slide, only a little more condensed.

# Conditionals

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- ◆ Conditionals are used to “test” something.
  - In Java or C, they test whether a Boolean variable is true or false.
  - In a Bourne shell script, the only thing you can test is whether or not a command is “successful”
- ◆ Every well behaved command returns back a **return code**.
  - 0 if it was successful
  - Non-zero if it was unsuccessful (actually 1..255)
  - We will see later that this is different from true/false conditions in C.

# The if Statement

## ◆ Simple form:

```
if decision_command_1
then
    command_set_1
fi
```


grep returns 0 if it finds something  
returns non-zero otherwise



## ◆ Example:

```
if grep unix myfile >/dev/null
then
    echo "It's there"
fi
```

redirect to /dev/null so that  
"intermediate" results do not get  
printed



# if and else

---

```
if grep "UNIX" myfile >/dev/null
then
    echo  UNIX occurs in myfile
else
    echo  No!
    echo  UNIX does not occur in myfile
fi
```



# if and elif

---

```
if grep "UNIX" myfile >/dev/null
```

```
then
```

```
    echo "UNIX occurs in file"
```

```
elif grep "DOS" myfile >/dev/null
```

```
then
```

```
    echo "Unix does not occur, but DOS does"
```

```
else
```

```
    echo "Nobody is there"
```

```
fi
```

# Use of Semicolons

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- ◆ Instead of being on separate lines, statements can be separated by a semicolon (;)
  - For example:  
`if grep "UNIX" myfile; then echo "Got it"; fi`
  - This actually works anywhere in the shell.  
`% cwd=`pwd`; cd $HOME; ls; cd $cwd`

# Use of Colon

- ◆ Sometimes it is useful to have a command which does “nothing”.
- ◆ The : (colon) command in Unix does nothing

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
if grep unix myfile
```

```
then
```

```
:
```

```
else
```

```
    echo "Sorry, unix was not found"
```

```
fi
```

# The test Command – File Tests

- ▶ `test -f file` does `file` exist and is not a directory?
- ▶ `test -d file` does `file` exist and is a directory?
- ▶ `test -x file` does `file` exist and is executable?
- ▶ `test -s file` does `file` exist and is longer than 0 bytes?

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
count=0
```

```
for i in *; do
```

```
    if test -x $i; then
```

```
        count=`expr $count + 1`
```

```
    fi
```

```
done
```

```
echo Total of $count files executable.
```

# The test Command – String Tests

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- ◆ `test -z string` is `string` of length 0?
- ◆ `test string1 = string2` does `string1` equal `string2`?
- ◆ `test string1 != string2` not equal?

- ◆ Example:

```
if test -z $REMOTEHOST
```

```
then
```

```
:
```

```
else
```

```
    DISPLAY="$REMOTEHOST:0"
```

```
    export DISPLAY
```

```
fi
```

# The test Command – Integer Tests

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- ◆ Integers can also be compared:

- Use -eq, -ne, -lt, -le, -gt, -ge

- ◆ For example:

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
smallest=10000
```

```
for i in 5 8 19 8 7 3; do
```

```
    if test $i -lt $smallest; then
```

```
        smallest=$i
```

```
    fi
```

```
done
```

```
echo $smallest
```

# Use of [ ]

- ◆ The **test** program has an alias as [ ]
  - Each bracket must be surrounded by spaces!
  - This is supposed to be a bit easier to read.
- ◆ For example:

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
smallest=10000
```

```
for i in 5 8 19 8 7 3; do
```

```
    if [ $i -lt $smallest ] ; then
```

```
        smallest=$i
```

```
    fi
```

```
done
```

```
echo $smallest
```

# The while Loop

- ◆ While loops repeat statements as long as the next Unix command is successful.
- ◆ For example:

```
#!/bin/sh
i=1
sum=0
while [ $i -le 100 ]; do
    sum=`expr $sum + $i`
    i=`expr $i + 1`
done
echo The sum is $sum.
```



# The until Loop

- ◆ Until loops repeat statements until the next Unix command is successful.
- ◆ For example:

```
#!/bin/sh  
x=1  
until [ $x -gt 3 ]; do  
    echo x = $x  
    x=`expr $x + 1`  
done
```

# Command Line Arguments (1)

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- ◆ Shell scripts would not be very useful if we could not pass arguments to them on the command line
- ◆ Shell script arguments are “numbered” from left to right
  - **\$1** - first argument after command
  - **\$2** - second argument after command
  - ... up to \$9
  - They are called “positional parameters”.

# Command Line Arguments (2)

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## ◆ Example: get a particular line of a file

– Write a command with the format:

*getlineno **linenumber** **filename***

*#!/bin/sh*

*head -\$1 \$2 | tail -1*

## ◆ Other variables related to arguments:

❖ *\$0* name of the command running

❖ *\$\** All the arguments (even if there are more than 9)

❖ *\$#* the number of arguments

# Command Line Arguments (3)

- ◆ Example: print the oldest files in a directory

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
# oldest -- examine the oldest parts of a directory
```

```
HOWMANY=$1
```

```
shift
```

```
ls -lt $* | tail +2 | tail $HOWMANY
```

- ◆ The **shift** command shifts all the arguments to the left
  - \$1 = \$2, \$2 = \$3, \$3 = \$4, ...
  - \$1 is lost (but we have saved it in \$HOWMANY)
  - The value of \$# is changed (\$# - 1)
  - **useful when there are more than 9 arguments**
- ◆ The “**tail +2**” command removes the first line.

# More on Bourne Shell Variables (1)

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- ◆ There are three basic types of variables in a shell script:
  - Positional variables ...
    - ❖ \$1, \$2, \$3, ..., \$9
  - Keyword variables ...
    - ❖ Like \$PATH, \$HOWMANY, and anything else we may define.
  - Special variables ...

# More on Bourne Shell Variables (2)

---

## ◆ Special variables:

- \$\*, \$# -- all the arguments, the number of the arguments
- \$\$ -- the process id of the current shell
- \$? -- return value of last foreground process to finish
  - more on this one later
- There are others you can find out about with `man sh`

# Reading Variables From Standard Input (1)

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- ◆ The **read** command reads one line of input from the terminal and assigns it to variables give as arguments
- ◆ Syntax: **read var1 var2 var3 ...**
  - ❖ Action: reads a line of input from standard input
  - ❖ Assign first word to **var1**, second word to **var2**, ...
  - ❖ The last variable gets any excess words on the line.

# Reading Variables from Standard Input (2)

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## ◆ Example:

```
% read X Y Z
```

```
Here are some words as input
```

```
% echo $X
```

```
Here
```

```
% echo $Y
```

```
are
```

```
% echo $Z
```

```
some words as input
```



# The case Statement

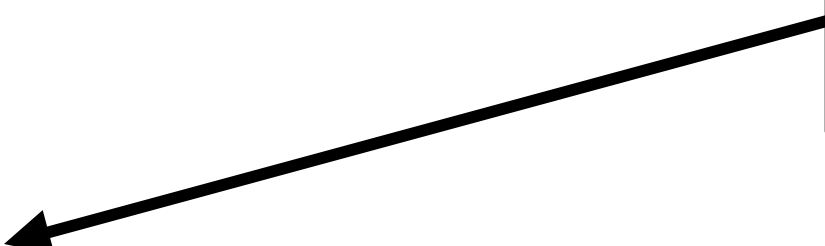
---

- ◆ The case statement supports multiway branching based on the value of a single string.
- ◆ General form:

```
case string in
    pattern1)
        command_set_11
        ;;
    pattern2)
        command_set_2
        ;;
    ...
esac
```

# case Example

```
#!/bin/sh
echo -n 'Choose command [1-4] > '
read reply
echo
case $reply in
    "1")
        date
        ;;
    "2"|"3")
        pwd
        ;;
    "4")
        ls
        ;;
    *)
        echo Illegal choice!
        ;;
esac
```



Use the pipe symbol “|” as a logical or between several choices.



Provide a default case when no other cases are matched.

# Redirection in Bourne Shell Scripts (1)

- ◆ Standard input is redirected the same (<).
- ◆ Standard output can be redirected the same (>).
  - Can also be directed using the notation 1>
  - For example: `cat x 1> ls.txt` (only stdout)
- ◆ Standard error is redirected using the notation 2>
  - For example: `cat x y 1> stdout.txt 2> stderr.txt`
- ◆ Standard output and standard error can be redirected to the same file using the notation 2>&1
  - For example: `cat x y > xy.txt 2>&1`
- ◆ Standard output and standard error can be piped to the same command using similar notation
  - For example: `cat x y 2>&1 | grep text`

# Redirection in Bourne Shell Scripts (2)

- ◆ Shell scripts can also supply standard input to commands from text embedded in the script itself.
- ◆ General form: `command << word`
  - Standard input for `command` follows this line up to, but not including, the line beginning with `word`.
- ◆ Example:

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
grep 'hello' << EOF
```

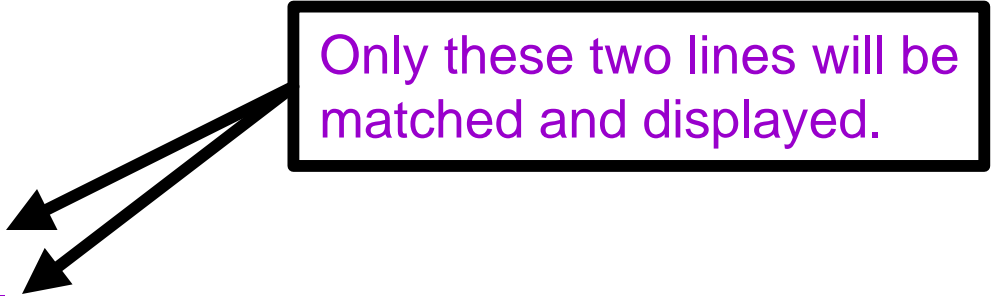
```
This is some sample text.
```

```
Here is a line with hello in it.
```

```
Here is another line with hello.
```

```
No more lines with that word.
```

```
EOF
```



Only these two lines will be matched and displayed.

# A Shell Script Example (1)

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- ◆ Suppose we have a file called **marks.txt** containing the following student grades:

091286899 90 H. White

197920499 80 J. Brown

899268899 75 A. Green

.....

- ◆ We want to calculate some statistics on the grades in this file.

# A Shell Script Example (2)

---

```
#!/bin/sh
sum=0; countfail=0; count=0;
while read studentnum grade name; do
    sum=`expr $sum + $grade`
    count=`expr $count + 1`
    if [ $grade -lt 50 ]; then
        countfail=`expr $countfail + 1`
    fi
done
echo The average is `expr $sum / $count`.
echo $countfail students failed.
```

## A Shell Script Example (3)

---

- ◆ Suppose the previous shell script was saved in a file called **statistics**.
- ◆ How could we execute it?
- ◆ As usual, in several ways ...
  - **% cat marks.txt | statistics**
  - **% statistics < marks.txt**
- ◆ We could also just execute **statistics** and provide marks through standard input.