

Writing Code

Jamie Saxon

Introduction to Programming for Public Policy

September 27, 2017

Our First Script




- ▶ Our 'salaries' command was getting hard to read (for humans).
- ▶ A **script** is a saved series of instructions for the computer.
- ▶ We can write that series in many languages: bash, python, perl, ...
- ▶ The command line language is 'bash,'* and can be run via source.

```
■ echo "echo hello world" > hw
■ cat hw
echo hello world
■ source hw
hello world
```


- ▶ But 'echo' is not a great way to write our long command!

*Bourne Again SHell

Writing Code: Atom, Spyder, and Jupyter

- ▶ Computers ‘interpret’ your code, or run a ‘compiled binary.’
 - ▶ **Interpreters** are computer programs that follow your instructions ‘step-by-step.’ So the shell is an interpreter.
 - ▶ **Compilers** translate what you write into something the computer understands ‘natively’ (ones and zeros = binary).
- ▶ Files must contain exactly and only the code: nothing extraneous.
 - ▶ So, needless to say (?), Microsoft Word won’t cut it.
- ▶ Use **Atom**  or **spyder**  (ships with Anaconda) to edit scripts.
 - ▶ I will not delve into vi or emacs (command-line editors).
- ▶ For graphical work, we’ll also use Jupyter notebooks .

Using Atom

1. Open Atom , and create a file `hw.sh`. Note its location!
2. Write “echo hello world” in this file and save it.
3. Navigate to the directory that contains `hw.sh`:
`cd /Users/jsaxon/...`
4. Finally, run it: `source hw.sh`

- ▶ A file's 'permissions' specify how users can interact with it.
 - ▶ Who can run it, read it, change it, etc?
- ▶ chmod allows you to change the file's default settings.
 - ▶ Add (+), remove (-), or set (=) rights to...
 - ▶ read (r), write (w), or execute/run (x) the file...
 - ▶ for you (u), people in a 'group' (g), or anyone (o).
- ▶ Most often, make a script executable for yourself: `u+x` or just `+x`.

Making a Script Executable

- A. Go to the directory containing `hw.sh` give yourself execute permissions.
 - ▶ This makes our script into a program. (!)
- B. Add `#!/bin/bash` to the top of `hw.sh` on a line by itself.
 - ▶ This specifies the language to use – in this case, bash.
 - ▶ We could also specify `#!/usr/bin/env bash` which effectively means “whichever bash is loaded.” Useful if you want to use the “default” python, for instance.
- C. Now run it!

```
■ chmod u+x hw.sh # A
■ ./hw.sh          # C -- don't need 'source'!
hello world
```

Two Examples on Income

Putting the Salaries Script Into a File

Full script [ex/salaries.sh](#) and the data file .

```
#!/bin/bash
#^^ which language?

# SORTING CHICAGO SALARIES <<< A comment
# Comments make your TAs happy and get you points.

echo "Top 10 Salaries in Chicago::"
cat salaries.csv |           # start the party!!
grep '\$' |                 # keep lines with dollar signs
sed 's/\$///g' |           # remove the dollar signs ...
sed "s/, //g" |            # and commas in names
sort -t, -k 7 -n -r |      # sorting is the best.
head -10 |                 # top ten
column -s, -t              # clean it up
```

Execute (run) `salaries.sh` from the folder that contains `salaries.csv`.

What are the highest-income and highest-poverty counties in the US?

- ▶ Check out the [variables](#) of the American Community Survey.
- ▶ Then use [this call](#) from the ACS API.
- ▶ You then mainly just need to “wrangle the text into order.”
 - ▶ This will get even easier with Python.
- ▶ Bonus: what about the highest and lowest in Illinois, etc...
- ▶ Check your answers with [wikipedia](#).
- ▶ Then compare with a [solution](#).

A First Python Script

Create a file `hello_world.py`, using vim Atom, TextEdit, etc.

Write `print("hello world")` in this file and save it.

Navigate to the directory that holds that file:

```
cd /Users/jsaxon/Documents/...
```

Type: `python hello_world.py`

- To go further, we need the rules and building blocks of Python...