

Week 03

ssh, grep, regexes, if, and bash scripts

Melvyn Ian Drag

February 4, 2020

Abstract

Tonight we'll look at grep a bit more, we'll learn what a regex is, you'll see how if statements work in bash, we'll see a tidy way to write bash commands, and you'll use a cool tool called ssh.

1 ssh

Let's start with the coolest thing. We'll make a remote connection to a remote pc. At my house I have a raspberry pi running.

Now connect to the pc using ssh from the command line. And poke around a bit. Class should think it's cool

Now I want you to do the same thing. To do this you need an ssh key. To get a key you open git bash, a linux terminal or a mac terminal. Type 'ssh-keygen' and then just hit yes to everything. **Show the class how to do this using git bash**. Then:

```
mel@laptop$ cd
mel@laptop$ pwd
/home/mel/
mel@laptop$ ls -a
.. lots of stuff including a .ssh directory
mel@laptop$ cd .ssh
mel@laptop$ ls
id_rsa id_rsa.pub
mel@laptop$ cat id_rsa.pub
A LOT OF STUFF
```

Now I want you to be able to connect to my raspberry pi

I need everyone to get me his or her id_rsa.pub.

Actually have everyone email me the id_rsa.pub file.

Then I'm going to do some magic on my end and you'll be able to connect to my computer. We have a lot to cover today so go fast, get this done, I don't want this to take the whole class!

(Add the keys to the homeserver and then the students can connect to my raspberry pi)

To connect you'll need to type

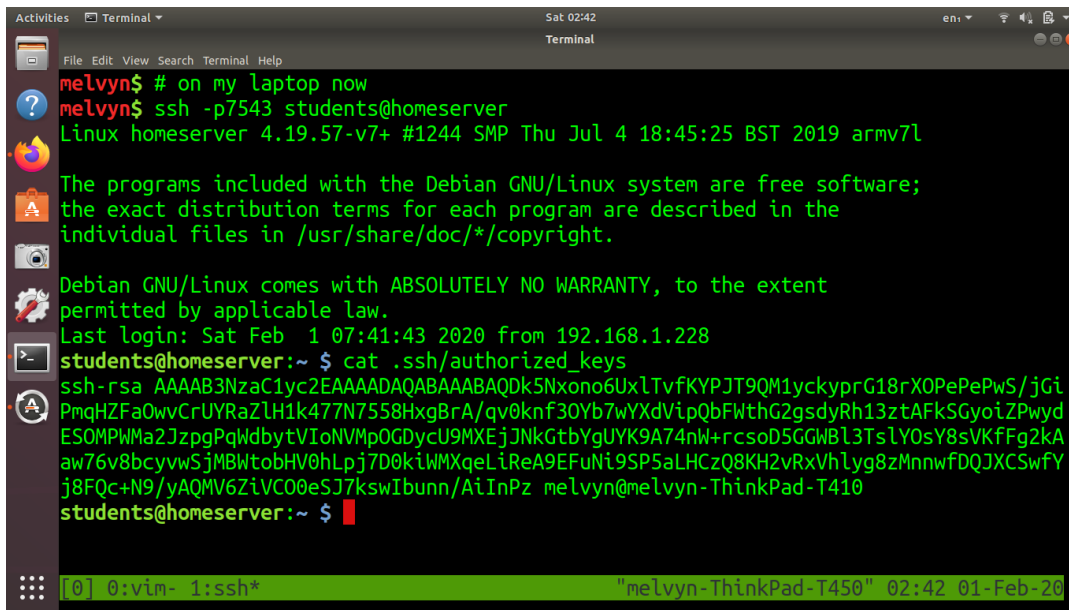
```
student@njcuPC$ ssh -p 7543 students@72.76.164.224
```

and then you should see your prompt change to

```
students@homeserver$
```

you're now connected to a computer I have at home using a tool called ssh! There are some commands that haven't worked in git bash yet like lsblk, wget and man because those are linux only commands - if you try them now, you'll see they work

WARNING! I don't know if my server can support 25 people logging in. This might fail for some, or the computer might work painfully slow. This is a server I set up and didn't configure, I don't know what



```
melvyn$ # on my laptop now
melvyn$ ssh -p7543 students@homeserver
Linux homeserver 4.19.57-v7+ #1244 SMP Thu Jul 4 18:45:25 BST 2019 armv7l

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Sat Feb  1 07:41:43 2020 from 192.168.1.228
students@homeserver:~$ cat .ssh/authorized_keys
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDk5Nxo6UxLTvfKYPJT9QM1yckyprG18rXOPePePwS/jGi
PmqHZFaOwvCrUYRaZlH1k477N7558HxgBrA/qv0knf30Yb7wYXdVipQbFWthG2gsdyRh13ztAFkSGyoiZPwyd
ESOMPWMa2JzpgPqWdbyTVIoNVMP0GDycU9MXEjJNkGtbYgUYK9A74nW+rcsoD5GGWBL3TsLYOsY8sVKfFg2kA
aw76v8bcyvwSjMBWtobHV0hLpj7D0kiWMXqeLiReA9EFuNi9SP5aLHCzQ8KH2vRxVhlyg8zMnnwfdQJXCswfY
j8FQc+N9/yAQMV6ZiVCO0eSJ7kswIbunn/AiInPz melvyn@melvyn-ThinkPad-T410
students@homeserver:~$
```

Figure 1: I need to add your ssh key to my authorized_keys file so you can connect to my raspberry pi

the default params are. you can limit the number of remote connections, and the raspberry pi is a small, humble machine, it probably will cry when 25 ppl try to work on it simultaneously. Let's see, I've never tried this before! Right now if you were a hacker you would probably be able to do damage to me because I've allowed you into my home network, but I don't think anyone here knows enough yet to do me any damage.

Try downloading something with wget:

```
student@homeserver$ wget
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/melvyniandrag/LinuxClassRepo/master/Lectures/Week03_SSHandM
```

```
student@homeserver$ man cp
info about the cp command
student@homeserver$ lsblk
# some stuff about the drives on my rpi.
```

This is a turning point in your life if you've never done this before! I use ssh almost every day, and so do many other programmers. Connecting to remote computers is a very common, everyday thing you do. Especially if you are a sysadmin or a webdev. A sysadmin needs to update computers remotely - they use ssh to connect to a far away computer and then install stuff and log off. Webdevs log onto web servers and then upload their website. We'll learn all this later.

TAKE AWAY RIGHT NOW: You are connected to a linux computer in my apartment in union City from a pc here in Jersey City. you could use this tool to connect to a computer in China, or to connect to a computer on the international space station. Nifty.

Please log off. I'm going to remove your keys and reboot the machine now, I don't want you all mucking around on my home network.

Make sure to delete the keys and reboot the machine to make sure no one can get on anymore

For your homework you are going to set up a digital ocean server. it's a very simple thing, but it might take you a few days. you have to go on the website and put your .edu email and they'll give you a free linux computer somewhere over in clifton. You will use ssh to connect to this pc for the rest of the semester.

I'll get you a link where you go to get your free pass, it's a 50 dollar credit and then you'll create a machine in the cloud and connect to it using ssh. No more windows for us. And use the cloud machine even if you have a mac

or ubuntu laptop - there will be subtle differences that will be a pain in the neck for us. Lets all just use a debian 10 server. Debian 10 is the operating system.

1.1 For your homework

So, for your homework I want you to set up your own cloud machine using digital ocean. It should be free - my students last semester registered for everything without any directions, I just said 'go to this website, sign up, get the discount and ssh in' and by some miracle everyone did it! I hope you all replicate that, digital ocean + github (the cloud server provider and website giving you \$50 free, respectively) have really good websites with wonderful user interfaces.

Go here for the discount:

<https://education.github.com/pack>

and here to sign up for digital ocean and get instructions for connecting:

<https://digitalocean.com>

Don't worry about this now, do it for homework. You'll have to type in all kinds of stuff and confirm emails and things, I don't want you distracted now. Do this later. AS A CLASS SHOW THEM THE BENEFITS WITH THE GITHUB STARTER PACK - FREE DOMAIN NAME ON NAME CHEAP, FREE DOMAIN ON NAME.COM. Then alot of other stuff I've never used. Look there is stuff about SQL, we're going to learn SQL this semester and make a database server so we won't need the free thing, but at least you see its there and popular. You see Atom there - but we aren't using atom in this class, we're using Vim

2 grep revisited

Now lets look at some more advanced pattern matching used in Linux via the grep command. Grep stands for Global regular expression print, it uses regular expressions to search for strings. "What's a regular expressions???" - we'll get to those nasty things in a second, but first we'll take a peek at grep.

Now, grep is immensely useful, as we already saw last week. Last week we typed

```
melvyn@thinkpad$ history | grep wget
```

to look through our messy bash history to find exactly the command of interest to us, to see what files we downloaded in the past and to potentially download them again.

Probably 100 times a week I use a command that you're now ready to appreciate:

```
melvyn@pc$ history | grep ssh
```

I use ssh all week to connect to a handful of differnt machines and can't remember the ip address I need to connect to . So I'll just peek in my history and see what machines I connected to in the past and then reconnect using that info.

A poem I like: <https://www.cc.gatech.edu/spencer/poems/woods.txt>

You can wget the poem

We are going to cover a bunch of grep options to pick apart this poem.

1. `-i grep -i HARNESS woods.txt`
2. `-w grep -w arness; grep -wi Harness`
3. `-v` for inverse grep i.e. `grep -v arness`
4. `-r mkdir -p a/b; mv woods.txt a/b; grep -r arness *`
5. `-n grep -rn arness *`
6. grep can match lines after + including pattern `'grep -A1 arness woods.txt '`

7. grep can match lines before and including pattern 'grep -B1 arness woods.txt'
8. grep can match lines around pattern 'grep -C3 arness woods.txt'
9. -l to list files containing a pattern *grep -l arness **

remember if we see any irrelevant error messages from grep, we can redirect them to the ether.

```
grep -l arness * 2> /dev/null
```

e.g.

```
$mkdir dir
$grep -l arness *
grep: dir: Is a directory
woods.txt
```

BUT

```
$grep -l arness * 2>/dev/null
lecture.txt
woods.txt
```

A reference for later: <https://opensourceforu.com/2012/06/beginners-guide-gnu-grep-basics/>

3 grep exercises 7:40 - 7:50 Exercises

Use the above patterns on the file 'hamletSolilquy.txt'. See what patterns you can extract. Make sure you test all of the patterns above, as you need to understand grep very well for your homework!

Convince yourself that the flags I've just shown you work:

- -i
- -w
- -v
- -r
- -n
- -A
- -B
- -C
- -l

then we'll move on to another interesting part of grep.

4 Grep and regular expressions 7:50 - 8:20 Grep and Regexes!

Ah, but we have yet to get to regular expressions! Grep stands for **Global Regular Expression Print** or **Generic Regular Expression Parser** or something or other, but the "RE" definitely stands for Regular Expression.

They say when a programmer has a problem and says "I know, I'll use a regular expression!". This is because regular expressions are tricky and easy to screw up if you don't pay attention. The lesson here is the same as with using vim - don't complain that the thing is hard, just learn to use it and then use it without whining! I suspect this proverb is so popular because alot of people don't pay attention to what a regex (that's short, slang for a regular expression) is and how to use it.

Regular expressions are for pattern matching. They are found in every major programming language out there - C++, Python, Java, etc. and you can use them in the bash shell too along with the 'grep' utility.

https://www.gnu.org/software/grep/manual/html_node/Basic-vs-Extended.html

There are two types - regular and extended. We'll just look at the basic ones - extended is about the same. In your free time click the link above and read it quickly. You'll see they are about the same.

Note to students: as with much of what I'll tell you this semester, I don't have a lot of what I'm telling you today memorized. I'm vaguely aware of the various symbols I'm going to show you and I often have to look at the documentation before typing anything to make sure I type it right. It's important that you understand the concept of a regular expression. Then you'll be able to use google to figure out exactly what you need to type.

In basic regular expressions the meta-characters

- '?'
- '+'
- '{'
- '|'
- '(', and
- ')'

lose their special meaning; instead use the backslashed versions

- '\?'
- '\+'
- '\{'
- '\|'
- '\('
- '\)'

NOTE!! I'll repeat for emphasis - we are using basic regular expressions in this lesson. So if we want to use the '+' meta-character we have to instead type '\+'

What to know:

1. The period (.) matches any single character.
2. ? means that the preceding item is optional, and if found, will be matched at the most, once.
3. * means that the preceding item will be matched zero or more times.
4. + means the preceding item will be matched one or more times.
5. n means the preceding item is matched exactly n times, while n, means the item is matched n or more times.
n,m means that the preceding item is matched at least n times, but not more than m times. ,m means that the preceding item is matched, at the most, m times.

Some more syntax:

1. ^ (Caret) = match expression at the start of a line, as in ^A will match an A at the beginning of a line.
2. (\$) = match expression at the end of a line, as in A\$.
3. \ (Back Slash) = turn off the special meaning of the next character, as in \.
- (Brackets) = match any one of the enclosed characters, as in [aeiou]. Use Hyphen "-" for a range, as in [0-9].

4. . (Period) = match a single character of any value, except end of line.
5. * (Asterisk) = match zero or more of the preceding character or expression.
6. {x,y} = match x to y occurrences of the preceding.
7. {x} = match exactly x occurrences of the preceding.
8. {x,} = match x or more occurrences of the preceding.
9. [\^] = match any one character except those enclosed in [], as in [\^ 0-9].

That's it! So, given the file a.txt (see this directory)
We can do the following

```
$ grep "a" a.txt # Find lines with an a
$ grep "a\?" a.txt # find lines with an optional a.
$ grep "a?" a.txt # find lines containing a?
$ grep "a\+" a.txt # find lines with 1 or more "a"s
$ grep "a+" a.txt # find lines containing "a+"
$ grep "a$" a.txt # find lines that end with a
$ grep "[0-9]$" a.txt # find lines that end with a number
$ grep "^[a-zA-Z]$" a.txt # find lines with one letter.
$ grep "a\{2,\}" a.txt # find lines with 2 or more "a"s
```

4.1 Grep exercises [8:20 - 8:30]

Change a.txt and change some of the grep patterns and verify that they work as expected on your system. You might have a weird version of grep installed, so let's make sure grep works the same for all of us.

5 7:30 - 8:00 if/test/comparisons

The bash syntax for if is

```
if [ condition ]
then
    command
fi
```

One more useful piece of information is that bash generally interprets values as strings, unless they can be used as numbers, in which case it assumes they are numbers. <https://www.tldp.org/LDP/abs/html/untyped.html>.

Comparison operators for numbers in bash are:

- -eq
- -ne
- -gt
- -ge
- etc.

Comparison operators for strings are:

- =
- !=
- etc.

for more information see here <https://www.tldp.org/LDP/abs/html/comparison-ops.html>

```
melvyn@thinkpad$ cat myFirstScript.sh
#!/bin/bash

x1=1
x2=2
if [ $x1 -lt $x2 ]
then
    echo "$x1 < $x2"
else
    echo "$x2 <= $x1"
fi
melvyn@thinkpad$ bash myFirstScript.sh
1 < 2
```

Then this script will fail, because you are using an arithmetic comp on strings:

```
melvyn@laptop$ cat myBadScript.sh
x1=1a
x2=2a
if [ $x1 -lt $x2 ]
then
    echo "$x1 < $x2"
else
    echo "$x2 <= $x1"
fi
melvyn@laptop$ bash myBadScript.sh
# error
```

You can easily fix this with:

Listing 1: option 1

```
#!/bin/bash

x1=1a
x2=2a

if [[ "$x1" < "$x2" ]]
then
    echo "$x1 < $x2"
else
    echo "$x2 <= $x1"
fi
```

OR

Listing 2: option 2 for if with strings

```
#!/bin/bash

x1=1a
x2=2a

if [ "$x1" \< "$x2" ]
then
    echo "$x1 < $x2"
else
    echo "$x2 <= $x1"
fi
```

Tip: The old bash advice is to double quote all variables in bash to make sure they are interpreted as a single value.

5.1 Exercise!

There are many different shell languages. Among them are:

- bash
- dash
- zsh
- csf
- fish

On Ubuntu, when you type **sh** you are actually using **dash**. In the git-bash shell on windows you are using bash. On OS X I think by default you get bash. There are ways to change the shell you use. We aren't concerned with that right now.

Your exercise is to run all the four scripts I just showed you and see if they work. If they do not, it is likely because you are not using bash. Try running the scripts like : 'bash scriptName.sh' and then 'sh scriptName.sh'

5.2 Final thoughts about bash

notice the difference between how this script runs with bash and with sh

sh is the bourne shell, bash is the bourne again shell

So I've shown you how to use if and some comparisons and highlighted some pitfalls, okay?

Notice how I made variables and how I used them in here. Now I want to show you a bit more about variables in bash. Again, what I'm showing you will work with sh (probably) but I take no responsibility for it if it doesn't. There are a million shells out there - a cool one I came across recently is fish. I think you install it with apt-get install fish, or fsh, can't remember, but I guess it purports to be a beginner friendly shell. I've never had any issue with bash, I've used the c shell maybe once or twice on an old server, and zsh a few times, but I like bash.

Bash only knows strings. EVERYTHING IN BASH IS A STRING, ALL VARIABLES are STRINGS. Whenever a variable can be treated as an integer, that is bash making a special exception for you. And BASH cannot do decimals. So everything in bash is a string. If it can think about a quantity as an int, it might if you ask nicely . But it will never interpret 1.1 as a number.

5.3 Another exercise?

Write an if statement to find which is bigger 1.1 or 1.2. You will find you can't do it with the numeric operators, only the string operators.