How do I run .sh scripts?

Asked 11 years, 11 months ago   Modified 3 years, 8 months ago   Viewed 4.0m times

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485

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Whenever I open a .sh file, it opens it in gedit instead of the terminal. I can't find any option similar to **Right Click → Open With → Other Application... → Terminal**.

How do I open this file in the terminal?

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| command-line | bash | scripts | execute-command |

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edited Aug 3, 2019 at 15:35

pomsky
66.3k   20   229   241

asked May 1, 2011 at 2:39

Alex
4,851   3   14   3

Does that script aim to set up env variables for further use? – Rob May 1, 2011 at 10:47

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3   You shouldn't use extensions on scripts. At some point in the future, you may find that a different language is more suitable to do the task your current script is doing. And then you have a problem. Do you keep the old name, with a completely misleading extension, or do you rename it, possibly having to edit alot of places where your script is used? – geirha May 1, 2011 at 14:07

You don't need the file extension. It's nice to have but is not needed. The OS doesn't look at the file extension. It looks at the data – ActionParsnip May 4, 2011 at 17:41

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8   Meh, if you rewrite foo.sh in ruby, you can always use the .sh file to launch `ruby foo.rb`
– glenn jackman Jun 11, 2013 at 1:24

In Dolphin you can press F4 and a console opens – Motte001 Jun 16, 2016 at 16:47

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16 Answers

Sorted by:

Highest score (default) ⇕

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Give execute permission to your script:

```
chmod +x /path/to/yourscript.sh
```

And to run your script:

```
/path/to/yourscript.sh
```

Since `.` refers to the current directory: if `yourscript.sh` is in the current directory, you can simplify this to:

```
./yourscript.sh
```

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edited Jun 18, 2015 at 7:53   answered May 1, 2011 at 3:18

Jeremy Kerr   karthick87
26.5k 4 47 62   **79.9k** 59 192 232

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18 +1 only answer to show adding execute permissions in a terminal only way. – Hailwood May 1, 2011 at 3:24

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109 If you do `bash /path/to/yourscript.sh` then you don't need `chmod +x` – Aleksandr Levchuk May 1, 2011 at 4:51

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6 Actually, you can use `. /path/to/yourscript.sh` if the script have to set up some environment variables. – Rob May 1, 2011 at 10:46

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2 Nobody mentions the traditional: `./path/to/yourscript.sh` (without the space after `.`)? I find that one is the simplest and easiest to use... But anyways, here is my alternative that should do almost the same as `./` would, though I don't see why you wouldn't use `./`:
`(FILENAME=~/rem4space.sh;SLL=$(cat $FILENAME|head -1|sed 's:^#!\(.*\):\1:g');[ ! -z $SLL ] && exec $SLL $FILENAME;sh $FILENAME)` ... edit `FILENAME` to your liking. Also note that `sh` will be used if there is no alternative. – MiJyn Jun 19, 2013 at 3:50 ✎

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keep it simple always wins! thanks man, – Muhammed Moussa Jul 27, 2021 at 3:37
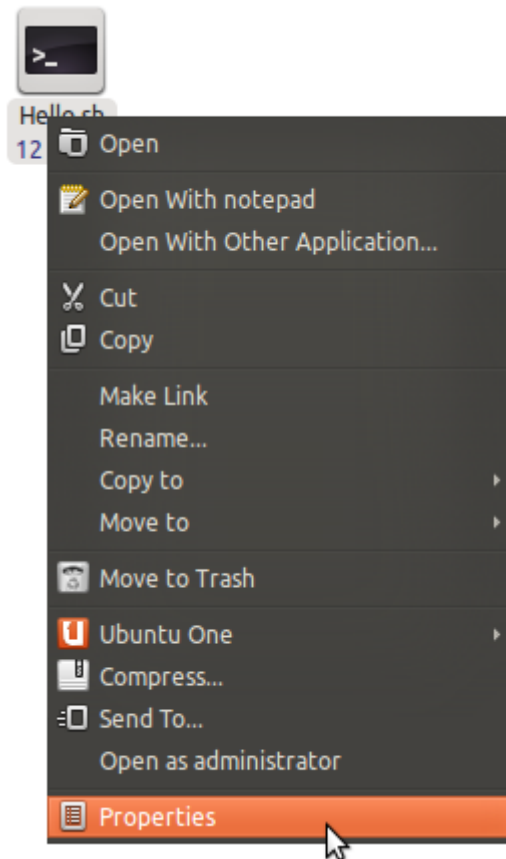

⌃

110

⌄

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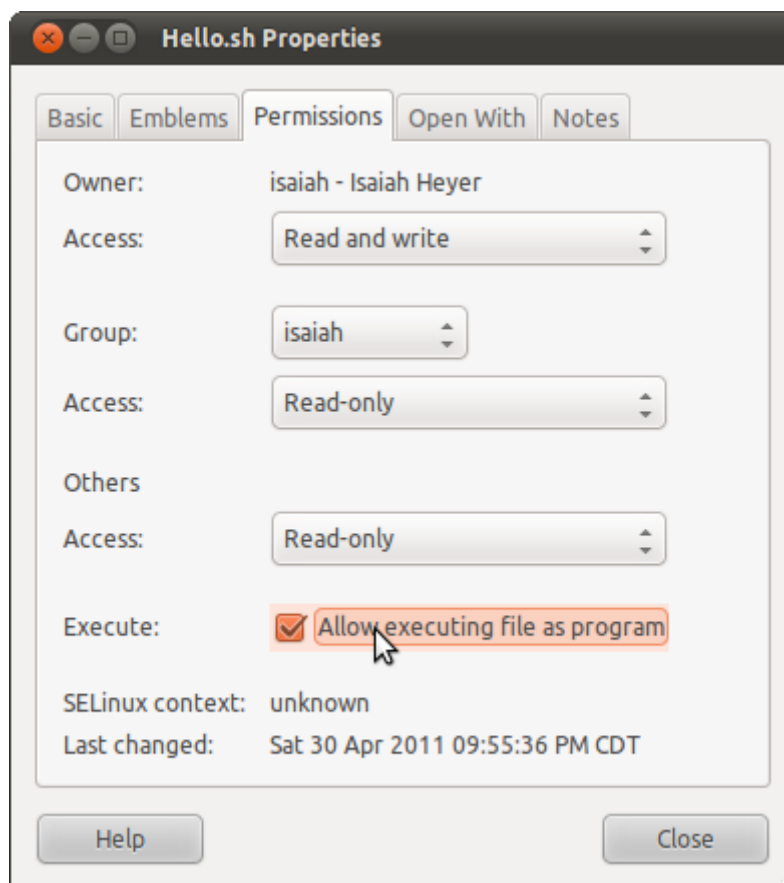You need to mark shell scripts as executable to run them from the file manager:

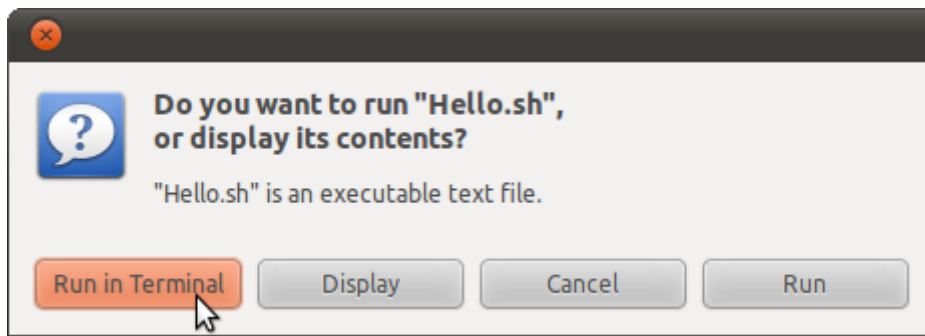1. Right click on your `.sh` file and select *Properties*:

2. In the *Permissions* tab, check *Allow executing file as program*:

3. Close the *Properties* window and double-click the file. A dialog will pop up giving you the option to run the script in a terminal:

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answered May 1, 2011 at 3:02

Isaiah
58.1k　28　132　145

12　This isn't working in Ubuntu 13.04. Keeps opening in gedit anyway, never asks me to execute. Edit: Nvm, imjustmatthew answers this. – mpen Jul 12, 2013 at 16:27 ✎

Before using this we need to make the file permission for execute using chmod. chmod +x filename.sh or chmod 755 filename.sh – Arvind Rawat Mar 16, 2017 at 15:11 ✎

I don't have popup! IDE is opened straight away, not a popup – Green Apr 4, 2018 at 10:56

How come I can't find "run in terminal" anywhere on my interface? (Ubuntu 18.04) – Daniel Möller May 9, 2018 at 22:08

3　@DanielMöller, here is the answer to your question. askubuntu.com/questions/38661/how-do-i-run-sh-files/... – Akhilesh Dhar Dubey Aug 16, 2018 at 10:19 ✎

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Open a terminal and navigate to the folder where the `.sh` file is located. Then type:

```
sh <name of file>.sh
```

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edited Jun 11, 2013 at 1:06

edwin
3,719　19　32

answered Dec 20, 2012 at 7:43

italianfoot
769　5　3

2　the best way to open any application. Navigate to .sh directory then open it in command prompt. the use sh <name of file as shown above>.sh if it requires permission use chmod +x /path/to/yourscript.sh or right click and change permission to all – Durgesh Kumar Mar 19, 2019 at 9:23

This is my favored method of doing it. @DurgeshKumar nice tips. – wlwl2 Jan 6, 2020 at 10:40 ✎

Tried to run a sh script on alpine. While other answers did not work, this did. – Vankog Oct 9, 2020 at 11:32

how about $ sudo bash asdad.sh – Manoj Kumar Jan 7, 2021 at 18:28

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32

Prerequisite

Before you can run the .sh file, you need to make it executable:

1. Right-click on the file

2. Select *Properties*

3. Select *Permissions*

4. Select *Allow executing file as a program*

Warning

Make sure you trust the source where you got the file from. It could be a **virus**.

The very simple way

1. Double-click on the file

2. Click run in terminal

This has problem. The terminal will close immediately and you will not be able to see the output.

The simple way

1. Open Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal

2. Drag and drop the .sh file into the terminal and press Enter

The way professionals do it

1. Open Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal

2. Find where the .sh file

   - Use the `ls` and `cd` commands

   - `ls` will list the files and folders in the **current folder**. Give it a try: type "ls" and press Enter.

   - Once you see the folder that you want to go in to, run `cd`, followed by a space, followed by a folder name

   - If you when into a folder that you did not want, run `cd ..` to go one level **up**

3. Run the .sh file

   - Once you can see for example `script1.sh` with `ls` run this:

     ```
     ./script.sh
     ```

Why do it the complicated way?

The terminal has a rich set of powerful tools that are accessible by typing the commands. Professionals locate the .sh file by typing `ls` and `cd`. Once you are in the correct **current folder** you can run the script like this:

```
./script1.sh
```

or you can run and redirect the output to a file:

```
./script1.sh > out.txt
```

or you can filter the output for keywords (e.g. "apples") an then redirect to a file:

```
./script1.sh | grep apples > ./only-apples
```

There are thousands of things you can to to that file just by typing a few commands.

Another one, you can download a file from the Internet with one simple command:

```
wget www.google.com/images/logos/ps_logo2.png
```

And then open the file like this:

```
shotwell ps_logo2.png
```

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edited Aug 3, 2019 at 15:17
pomsky
66.3k   20   229   241

answered May 1, 2011 at 2:52
Aleksandr Levchuk
2,216   1   16   22

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10 Im not sure that *The way professionals do it* is correct, it's more a case of the *simple way* the *advanced(for for control of output)* way – Hailwood May 1, 2011 at 4:24

It's good to know I did it the way professionals do it on my first trial. I thought it was the basic user's way. – NelsonGon Jun 11, 2019 at 5:06

23

On Ubuntu 13.04 executable files opened in Nautilus are now opened in gedit by default rather than prompting the user to execute them. To enable the classic behavior you need to adjust the preferences:

Nautilus → Edit menu → Preferences → Behaviour tab → Click the radio button near Ask each time.

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edited Jun 16, 2015 at 11:23
kos
35.2k   13   100   150

answered Jun 10, 2013 at 21:41
imjustmatthew
341   2   4

The person who asked the question is talking about Ubuntu 10.10 – edwin Jun 11, 2013 at 0:48

2 Thank you!!! I don't know why they'd change this, couldn't figure out how to execute anything. – mpen Jul 12, 2013 at 16:28

2   This is the right answer for latest ubuntus. – gaRex Apr 11, 2015 at 11:44

     How do you get to Nautilus in 15.10? – yaakov May 23, 2016 at 17:54

3   As of Ubuntu 18.04, you can access the preferences by opening a directory and then clicking "Files -> Preferences" in the top bar. – tparker Nov 17, 2018 at 20:04

Go to the directory where the `.sh` file is by using `cd`. In this example I have stored my `sh` file as `~/Desktop/shell_practice/test.sh`

10

first do `pwd` to figure out where you are, and if it returns `/home/username` (where `username` is your real username), you can run

    cd Desktop/shell/practice

If you seem to be somewhere else, you can use the absolute path

    cd ~/Desktop/shell/practice

or

    cd $HOME/Desktop/shell/practice

or even

    cd /home/$USER/Desktop/shell/practice

these are all ways of describing the same place. Once you've made it to the location of your script, type

    ls

If you can see the `sh` file in the output, you can use `chmod` to make it executable. In my case, remember, the filename is `test.sh`, so I would run

    chmod u+x test.sh

Now that we are in the same directory as the script, we have to specify to the shell that we want to execute the file by giving its location `./` (the current directory followed by a path separator, to distinguish it from the filename). To run my file I would type:

    ./test.sh

If your script has been written correctly it will run without errors...

Here's a live example:

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edited Sep 14, 2017 at 15:25

answered Dec 3, 2016 at 11:14

Zanna ♦
68.7k 55 212 322

TheExorcist
203 4 9

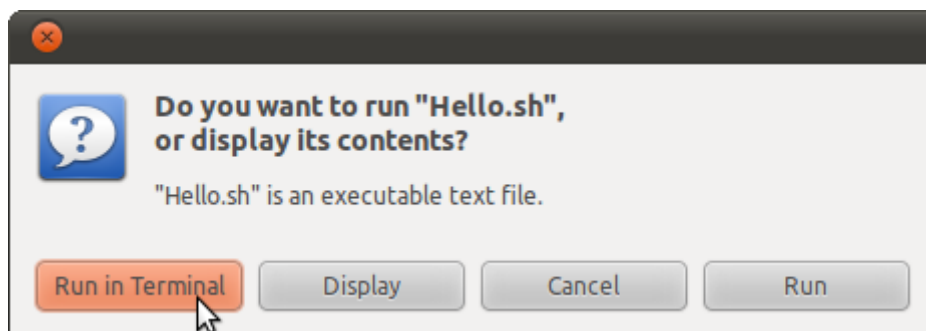This worked for me to install Netbeans on ubuntu – RuD3B0y Jan 6, 2018 at 20:16

2   Wb, @RuD3B0y, i tried to keep the answers best for noobs, no high tech content, if you have some
    edits you are welcome. – TheExorcist Apr 2, 2018 at 17:58

For **Ubuntu 18.04**, There is a little modification, as you don't get a pop-up dialog.

10

So what you need to do is:

**Right click on Files, Select Preferences > Select Behavior Tab > Mark 'Ask what to do'
option under Executable text file.**

Now, When you double-click on any .sh file, you will get a popup, there you can select "run in
terminal" option to run your .sh file.

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answered Aug 16, 2018 at 10:18

Akhilesh Dhar Dubey
201 2 4

2   bit weird as I don't have the "preferences" option in right click menu. I only have properties.
    – Nicholas Humphrey Sep 11, 2020 at 11:53

    For me this also made it ask for other completely unrelated extensions which is a real drag. Anyway to
    only make it ask this for things ending in a `.sh` extension. – Kvothe Dec 3, 2020 at 16:45

+1, the same works also in 20.04 – userfuser Apr 27, 2022 at 8:31

There are a few ways to do this.

7

Option 1

1. In the terminal, access the directory the Bash file is in using `cd` (change directory).

   Ex. `cd Downloads`

2. Run `bash <filename>.sh`

   This also works with .run files. There is an example of this usage at this webpage on updating Rhythmbox.

Option 2

1. In the terminal, navigate to the directory the bash file is in.

2. Run `chmod +x <filename>.sh`

3. In Nautilus, open the file.

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edited Sep 14, 2017 at 14:47   answered Jan 6, 2014 at 21:33
wjandrea   Kenny Stier
13.9k 4   46   97   **185** 1   7

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2 main steps.

6

1. in terminal, use gedit to write and save script with ".sh" extension to desktop. (but any text editor can be used)

2. open Nautilus and right click the script.sh file.
   - under properties, check box "allow executing file.."
   - in Nautilus menu, click file,then preferences,then behaviour
   - check the "run executable text files when they are opened".

Now, when you double click the file on the desktop, it should execute. no need for `.` or `./`

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edited Oct 24, 2013 at 15:17   answered Oct 24, 2013 at 14:24
Joren   rob
5,003 8   37   54   **61** 1   1

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1. Right-click the `.sh` file and make it executable.

5

2. Open a terminal (Ctrl + Alt + T).

3. Drag the `.sh` file into the terminal window and watch in awe.

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2   Welcome to Ask Ubuntu! I recommend to <u>edit</u> this answer to expand it with specific details about how
     to do the first step. (See also <u>How do I write a good answer?</u> for general advice about what sorts of
     answers are considered most valuable on AskUbuntu.) – David Foerster Jun 10, 2017 at 15:49

In Ubuntu 16.04 this is how to open it in Terminal:

4   Go to the `File Manager` > `Edit` > `Preferences` > `Behavior` for `Executable Text Files` and
     select `Ask each time`.

The problem is that it's by default set to `View Executable Files when they are opened`.

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If you place your shell script or other executable you create in /usr/local/bin it will be found
and executed without having to provide a folder path in the command line or adding ./ to the
3   name. For example I created the following simple 3 line bash script to display disk UUIDs:

```
#!/bin/bash
echo "* UUIDs must match in /etc/fstab and /boot/grub/menu.lst"
sudo blkid
```

I called the file uuid and placed it in /usr/local/bin. All I need enter on the command line is:

```
uuid
```

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Well, I too faced the same problem. I wanted to execute the .sh file and it opened with Gedit
on CentOS 7. So here is what I did:

2
     1. I navigated to the path of the `.sh` file I wanted to execute.

     2. I opened the terminal.

     3. And I simply dragged and dropped the on the terminal window and it automatically took
        that file along with the path as input.

     4. Hit Enter and you are good to go!

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2

The problem I have found on a few distributions is they have hidden the preferences option in Nautilus, but to fix it in Ubuntu and other distributions using Gnome3 is the same (literally just done the Fedora version of this and posting the actual fix to remind me how in the future).

1. Install `dconf-editor`

   ```
   sudo apt-get install dconf-editor
   ```

2. Run `dconf-editor` using the user account you want this on, i.e NOT root

   ```
   dconf-editor
   ```

3. Navigate to the following schema:

   org.gnome.nautilus.preferences

4. Change the default option to not open by default:

   Find `executable-text-activation` click the word `display` and change to `ask`

that will give you the option to edit, view or run the file going forward

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2

I am a noob in Linux and I just had the same problem. If all else fails:

1. Open terminal
2. Open the folder containing the .sh file
3. Drag and drop the file into the terminal window
4. The file's path appears in terminal. Press Enter .
5. Voila, your .sh file is run.

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-3

You can also use `.` tricks, with the suggestion of other answers.

For example:

`chmod +x filename.sh` , assuming you have already gone to the path to file then run the file with any one of these command:

```
sh filename.sh

./filename.sh

. filename.sh
```

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answered Jan 2, 2015 at 8:29

Awais
285   1   3   9

2   *warning*: These three commands are *not* equivalent. If your shebang references a different binary (like Stack), then the third command will try parsing arguments with Bash, which will fail. – Jezen Thomas Feb 18, 2017 at 11:12

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