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# How To Run the .sh File Shell Script In Linux / UNIX

Author: Vivek Gite

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[56 comments](#)

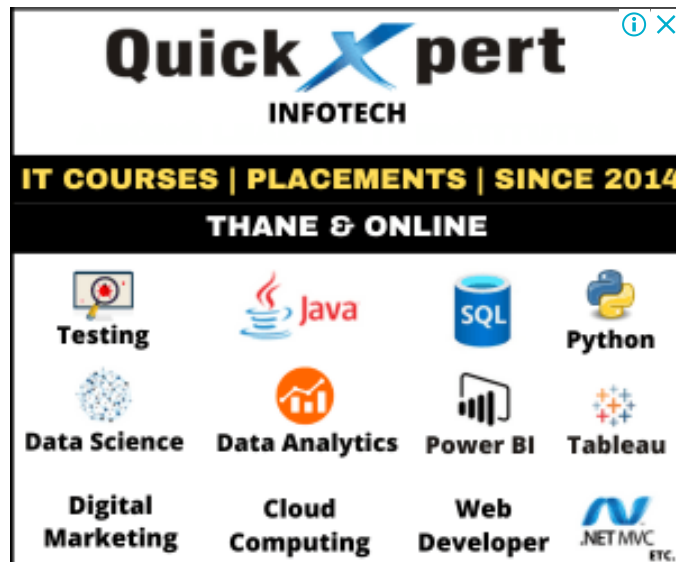
I have downloaded software for my Linux or Unix-like system from the Internet. There is a file called install.sh. How do I run an .sh file to install the software in macOS? How do you run .sh files from command line?



You can open or run .sh file in the terminal on Linux or Unix-like system. The .sh file is nothing but the shell script to install given application or to perform other tasks under Linux and UNIX like operating systems. The easiest way to run .sh shell script in Linux or UNIX is to type the following commands. Open the terminal (your shell prompt) and type the commands.

| Tutorial details  |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Difficulty level  | <a href="#">Easy</a>   |
| Root privileges   | No   |
| Requirements      | Linux terminal   |
| Category          | <a href="#">Linux shell scripting</a>  |
| OS compatibility  | BSD • <a href="#">Linux</a> • <a href="#">macOS</a> • <a href="#">Unix</a> • WSL |
| Est. reading time | 4 minutes  |

## ADVERTISEMENT



## How do I run .sh file shell script in Linux?

The procedure to run the .sh file shell script on Linux is as follows:

1. Open the Terminal application on Linux or Unix
2. Create a new script file with .sh extension using a text editor
3. Write the script file using `nano script-name-here.sh`
4. Set execute permission on your script using chmod command :

```
chmod +x script-name-here.sh
```

5. To run your script :

```
./script-name-here.sh
```

Another option is as follows to execute shell script:

```
sh script-name-here.sh
```

OR

```
bash script-name-here.sh
```

Let us see script examples and usage in details.



## Syntax

The syntax is:

```
sh file.sh
```

OR

```
bash file.sh
```

## How to run .sh file as root user

Some time you need root access to install application; without root, you won't have the necessary permissions to install application or make system level modifications. Root access is disabled by default on many Linux and UNIX like systems. Simply use the sudo command or su command as follows:

```
sudo bash filename.sh
```

Type your password. Another option is to use the su command as follows to become

superuser:

```
su -
```

Type root user password and finally run your script:

```
bash filename.sh
```

## How to use chmod command to run .sh shell script in Linux



Another recommend option is to set an executable permission using the chmod command as follows:

```
chmod +x file.sh
```

Now you can run your .sh file as follows

```
./file.sh  
/path/to/file.sh
```

## How do I run .sh file named install.sh?

Just run the following two command:

```
chmod +x install.sh  
./install.sh
```

The dot (.) refers to the current working directory. The install.sh is in the current directory so you run it as above or as follows too:

```
bash install.sh
```

OR

```
sh install.sh
```

## GUI method to run .sh file

1. Select the file using mouse.
2. Right-click on the file.
3. Choose **Properties**:

4. Click **Permissions** tab.

5. Select Allow executing file as a program:

6. Now click the file name and you will be prompted. Select “Run in the terminal” and it will get executed in the terminal.

# Running .sh file shell script and debugging options

Pass the `-x` to debug shell script when running on your system. It print commands and their arguments as they are executed. For example:

```
bash -x script-name.sh
sh -x script-name.sh
```

Want to show shell input lines as they are read. Try passing the `-v` option:

```
bash -v script-name
```

We can combine both options. In other words, try it as follows:

```
bash -x -v backup.sh
```

For more information see how to [improve your bash/sh shell script with ShellCheck lint script analysis tool](#) and other [bash debugging hints here](#).

## Conclusion

You learned how to run .sh file shell script using combination of the chmod and dot (.) or sh/bash command. We can use any one of the following command execute shell script on Linux and Unix-like systems:

---

```
bash script.sh
sh my-script.sh
## or
chmod +x /path/to/script/file
/path/to/script/file
```

---

See the following resources for more info:

- [Setting up permissions on a script](#)

- [Linux Bash Shell Scripting Tutorial](#)

You can read GNU/BASH or KSH man pages using the [man command](#) or [help command](#) or read it [online](#):

```
man bash  
man ksh
```

---

**About the author:** Vivek Gite is the founder of nixCraft, the oldest running blog about Linux and open source. He wrote more than 7k+ posts and helped numerous readers to master IT topics. Join the nixCraft community via [RSS Feed](#) or [Email Newsletter](#).

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| WireGuard VPN    | <a href="#">Alpine</a> • <a href="#">Amazon Linux</a> • <a href="#">CentOS 8</a> • <a href="#">Debian 10</a> • <a href="#">Firewall</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu 20.04</a> • <a href="#">qrencode</a>  |

56 comments... [add one](#) ↓

**lekhraj**

Oct 1, 2007 @ 7:53

anybody tell by which coomand i will check the modified date of files/dir in linux o/s

[reply](#) [link](#)

**sushant suryawanshi**

Oct 13, 2012 @ 8:14

date -s "2 OCT 2006 18:00:00"

[reply](#) [link](#)

**rashid**

Feb 20, 2008 @ 9:38

if we want to install software from cd.. how should be the command? i'm the newbie

[reply](#) [link](#)

**Varun**

Feb 22, 2022 @ 8:37

What are you guys doing rn?

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**anonomys**

Dec 19, 2008 @ 21:43

rashid, if you want to install software from the cd you should try synaptic package handler or apt-get .

if the software is usually from the cd it will tell you to insert it

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Black\_Ps`**

Jun 11, 2009 @ 3:31

How can i execute this command `export PS1="\[[33[01;32m]\u@\h\[[33[01;34m]\W\]\#"` from a .sh script for example and make it work ?

Thanks.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**J\_Art**

Jun 21, 2009 @ 21:51

Hey Black\_Ps`

There are a few ways to do this but if you are not familiar with some of the nuances of Linux, it might be easier to create a new folder to place the file in (or all of your scripts in) like `home/username/Desktop/scripts` (substituting the actual user name in place of username). The following instructions are based on Fedora 10 with GNOME desktop so if you are running a different Linux distro, you may or may not have a few slight variances. Once you have a good place to store your scripts, you can use the

GUI to help with creation of the shell script. Next, click on the “Applications” menu and highlight “Accessories” and then select “Text Editor” Type the following command `#!/bin/bash` and then press the enter key. Now, type the command you listed into the text editor and then select the “Save As” option. Now name your file (highly recommended that you don’t name it with spaces and make the name all lower case to help with ease of use later) and save it to your new folder you created...remember to give it a .sh name extension. Now close the text editor and go back to the “Applications” menu and highlight “System Tools” and then select “Terminal”. Type the following command `cd /home/username/Desktop/scripts` (again substituting the actual user name in place of username). The command `ls` and then press the enter key. Did it return the name of your script as a file in that folder? If so, move on to the next step. If it did not, navigate to the folder where you saved this file and move it to the correct folder. Type the following command `chmod 755 yourfilename.sh`. That’s it, you now have an executable shell script that will execute your command. You can do so by double clicking on it from the GUI, calling it from the terminal like so `bash /home/username/Desktop/scripts/yourfilename.sh` or you could put it on the cron to run unattended if you needed to. I hope this helps some or at least points you in the right direction.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**kashif**

Feb 9, 2012 @ 11:53

can you please expalin it more detailes.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Black\_Ps`**

Jun 21, 2009 @ 22:09

Ok thanks i'll give it a try

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**shunan**

Jun 30, 2009 @ 6:17

When i open the terminal in UNIX..something like interactive keyboard authentication bla.. bla.. is coming..nd its difficult me to go on typing my commands and navigating through the directors and files..how can i fix this..? any idea...? any command? anything helpful will be highly appreciated. \_thanks\_

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

## **J\_Art**

Jun 30, 2009 @ 21:52

Hi shunan

Is it safe to assume that you have someone in an administrative role who oversees the security of this UNIX terminal? The reason I ask is because this sounds like something I encountered once with something called PAM (Pluggable Authentication Module). It's a security concept that involves VSHELL. To be perfectly honest, I'm not too familiar with it and the only thing I can vaguely remember about it is that it somehow involves configuring authentication to be controlled by PAM via keyboard-interactive authentication. I realize I didn't help much here but I hope this at least points you in the right direction. PAM is a product of SUN so you might find something worth while on their page but I haven't really read up on it so I can't make any promises. → <http://www.sun.com/software/solaris/pam/>

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

## **Nate**

Sep 23, 2009 @ 20:06

This is just straight pissing me off.

I've run the install.sh file in the terminal and have gotten to a eula where it asks if I accept and to type yes or no. I type yes and hit enter.

it said it can't install it because permission is denied. But a window didn't pop up to ask for my password.

I'm about to kick Ubuntu in the face.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---



Sep 23, 2009 @ 20:46

Try

sudo sh install.sh

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**hhxxxuu**

Jul 12, 2011 @ 10:40

haha

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Dare\_devil**

Dec 2, 2009 @ 22:52

hi i am newbie too to linux system i've a direct question:

i have arch linux but nothing from these commands work terminal tell me the following:

command not found

help me!

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**tugrul**

Mar 2, 2010 @ 22:25

if you are using fedora 12 like i am, open up the terminal, switch to the root and with the terminal get on the fileway that you downloaded your .sh file. So write "sh YOURDOWNLOADEDFILE.sh" click on enter and that's it

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Gary James**

Mar 8, 2010 @ 20:50

Excellent advice. Thanks Gary ( A newly converted Linux enthusiast)

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**dishant**

Mar 23, 2010 @ 9:16

can i execute a shell script in another shell script

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Iqbal**

Jun 5, 2010 @ 9:28

Hey all,

Yes dishant,

You can run the shell script inside the other.

But keep in mind that In the second script do not kill the first one.

If you want to kill the first one, then back up the file name somewhere and kill it, then use that path in the second script.

Cheers,

Iqbal S.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**panchotiya jigar r**

Apr 15, 2010 @ 16:57

this is the best site of linux information to me

i learn lots of by this web site

it's realy very helpful web site

i use this website for longtime

it's give all answer of your questions

thanks for help



[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**sara**

Aug 21, 2010 @ 6:11

in fedora 12 i switch to root by command : su  
and ./install.sh but the error come out: install.sh: No such file or directory  
why?  
i want to know how it detect the folder install.sh is inside?

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**sara**

Aug 21, 2010 @ 6:12

switch to root with command: su –

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**MikeM**

Nov 2, 2010 @ 14:12

So, I have a similar problem as Sara. Created a miketest.sh script, and used “.”  
prefix to execute it, and received “ksh: ./miketest.sh: not found.”

If I use “sh” instead of “.” it seems to run fine.

Permissions of miketest.sh are set to 777.

I have other scripts that run fine, and some that do not... What am I missing here?

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**pari**

Feb 28, 2011 @ 4:57

may be u r not giving the correct path, check ur path again. Firstly reach to ur folder n  
then switch to root. I know it is very basic thing but sometimes mistake happens in  
such things also...

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**dave**

Apr 23, 2011 @ 4:17

This is hilarious. Came across this site by accident, but just noticed advice to a newbie.

“Open the terminal (your shell prompt) and type the command:”

To a newbie, that is still gibberish.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**nathan**

Jun 13, 2011 @ 10:08

nice one for beginners.. good working

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**shin\_chan**

Jul 6, 2011 @ 5:06

Alright a very nice tutorial....really helpful but I have a little problem.....

I want to run the .sh in background so that even I can logout.

I am using the command “nohup sh filename.sh &” and a file named “nohup.out” is also made but it contains an error which says “no such file or directory”...I am using the command in folder where the .sh file is located.

Pls tell where I am doing it wrong!!!!

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Clifford**

Feb 3, 2012 @ 0:43

Put the following at the end of the syntax:

2>&1 &

I hope this helps!!!

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**sonaht**

Aug 23, 2011 @ 20:39

Thanks for this good and clear information. Very helpful for eachothers.. that are beginners :)

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Areeg**

Sep 18, 2011 @ 23:59

in ubuntu 11.04

you need to specify the full path of the file not only th name .sh

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Dhruv**

Sep 22, 2011 @ 19:41

very nice ... i need some more article on that particular topics can you please send me some link so that i can check daily

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**kishore**

Nov 7, 2011 @ 16:36

i m getting the error output .....The program returned an error code (126).....  
when i run the sh script.sh

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**ashok**

Mar 1, 2012 @ 8:35

how to save modified .sh file.i am trying to install hadoop on my system.But JAVA\_HOME path is to be changed from jdk 1.5 to jdk6.i need to modify hadoop-env.sh file.But my system is not allowing.please suggest me

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**maxx**

Mar 11, 2012 @ 7:13

thanks for the clear information

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Doug**

Apr 3, 2012 @ 23:28

I am trying to run "admire\_root.sh" in my terminal. In several attempts at rooting my phone. Samsung SCH 720 Admire. In the YouTube video "

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEpU8-RBVHo>" the tech describes very fast " You may need to run chmod or chmod 755 run.sh" ?? What ever that means.???

I have googled searched till my fingers bleed and eyes tear . This is going on 5 days. I cannot figure this out. Please help.

My question is. When I am in Terminal– What do I type in order to run the admire\_root.sh file? Or Chmod 755 the file? Can I simply copy paste the script from the file into Terminal?

[reply](#) [link](#)

---



Apr 4, 2012 @ 11:11

Type any one of the following command:

```
chmod +x admire_root.sh  
./admire_root.sh
```

OR

```
bash admire_root.sh
```

OR

```
sh admire_root.sh
```

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

## Hennie

Jun 17, 2012 @ 20:30

thnx for this info noobs like us are always looking for simple clean command lines  
i created a script that cleans/delete logfiles but could not test it  
using the simple bash filename.sh i could test it  
added the cronjob after that and it all works fine

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
OWNER=root
```

```
TARGETDIR_1=/var/log
```

```
FILE_1=XXX.log
```

```
echo && date
```

```
if test -f $TARGETDIR_1/$FILE_1 ; then
```

```
echo "XXX.log present!"
```

```
chown $OWNER $TARGETDIR_1/$FILE_1
```

```
rm $TARGETDIR_1/$FILE_1
else
echo "No XXX.log present?!?!Nothing to remove"
fi
```

exit

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**ramchandra deshmunh**

Oct 29, 2012 @ 7:51

sir i try script program us but plz explain at commands in details in terminal prompt ...

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**balakrishnan**

Dec 3, 2012 @ 6:21

i want to include macro in my script file like #define INT int how to use this macro in my script file

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**cat**

Jan 20, 2013 @ 7:54

hey guys :)

i want a script to send data from DB to E-mail automatically

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Rajesh Sharma**

Aug 22, 2013 @ 20:18

Please tell me how to download software from net to run unix command in desktop

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Ravinder**

Oct 19, 2013 @ 6:36

thanks guys. this is really helpful

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**abdul**

Apr 22, 2014 @ 8:22

i need to write a shell script that will give read, write and execute permissions to the file owner and group owner of the file

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Jas**

Jun 16, 2014 @ 5:32

Can anybody help me how to schedule below command to run every week on Monday?

```
df -h | egrep 'Filesystem|log|new' | awk '{print $0,"\\n"}' | less | mailx -s "subject"
mail@company.com
```

Thanks in advance for your help.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**venkat**

Apr 30, 2015 @ 16:13

1) I want create one shell which connects to 4 diffrent servers and executes different shells.

ex:a) 172.30.8.40 path: DDP1/shell1.sh

b)172.30.8.41 path:DDP1/shell2.sh

c)172.30.8.42 path:DDP1/shell3.sh

d)172.30.8.43 path:DDP1/shell4.sh

i have general user but i need to connect to sudo also. please any one help me.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Stan**

Aug 12, 2015 @ 7:59

Thanks for article.

If i want to run my script "up.sh" just like command "up". What should i do for this?

Thanks.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

 **Vivek Gite**

Aug 12, 2015 @ 11:23

```
mkdir ~/bin/  
cp up.sh ~/bin/  
export PATH=$PATH:$HOME/bin/  
up
```

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**vanya**

Oct 26, 2015 @ 11:33

thx

that article helped me =)

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**George**

Nov 9, 2015 @ 8:36

Thank you very much !!!

[reply](#) [link](#)

---



**WS**

Feb 28, 2016 @ 17:03

Muito obrigado por elaborar e compartilhar esse tutorial

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Chukka Nukka**

Oct 27, 2016 @ 20:03

Thank you.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**s.syedali fathima**

Feb 17, 2017 @ 8:40

1. How to install cp -R in linux?

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**bash**

Aug 30, 2017 @ 19:35

bash -x

for debugging

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**रामलाल त्रिवेदी**

Feb 27, 2021 @ 10:06

यह बहुत बढ़िया ट्यूटोरियल है. विवेक भाई, कृपया इस तरह के अच्छे काम करते रहें.

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

**Chris Cole**

Apr 18, 2021 @ 14:11

I am reading this the 5th time and still do not understand a thing. I'm calling my 15 year old daughter to translate...

[reply](#) [link](#)

---

## Anonymous

Mar 23, 2023 @ 19:39

To run a shell script (.sh) file in Linux, you can follow these steps:

Open a terminal or command line interface on your Linux system.

Navigate to the directory where the shell script file is located using the `cd` command. For example, if the file is located in the “/tmp/” folder, you would type:

```
cd /tmp/
```

Check the file permissions using the `ls -l` command.

```
ls -l
```

Make sure that the file has the execute permission set for the user running the script. For example, if the file is named “my-script.sh”, you can check the permissions using:

```
ls -l myscript.sh
```

If the execute permission is not set, you can set it using the `chmod` command:

```
chmod +x -v my-script.sh
```

Run the shell script by typing the following command:

```
./my-script.sh
```

This will execute the shell script in the current shell session. You may need to modify the script to include the appropriate interpreter (such as bash) at the beginning of the file, depending on how the script was written. For example:

```
#!/bin/bash
```

In this case, you would run the script using the interpreter, such as

```
bash my-script.sh
```

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