



# BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

BNCSC202

CLASS NOTES

Linux System Administration-I

## Module I: Introduction to Linux Operating System

### Part II

#### Concept of Shell and Kernel:

A shell is a command-line interface (CLI) that allows users to interact with an operating system. The shell provides a way for users to execute commands, navigate the file system, and manage processes. The shell is essentially a program that acts as an intermediary between the user and the operating system.

The kernel is the core of the operating system and is responsible for managing the system's resources, such as memory, processors, and input/output devices. The kernel also communicates with the computer's hardware and provides a

secure environment for running applications. The kernel acts as a bridge between the hardware and software of a computer.

In short, the shell is the interface between the user and the kernel, while the kernel is the core of the operating system that manages the computer's resources and communicates with the hardware.

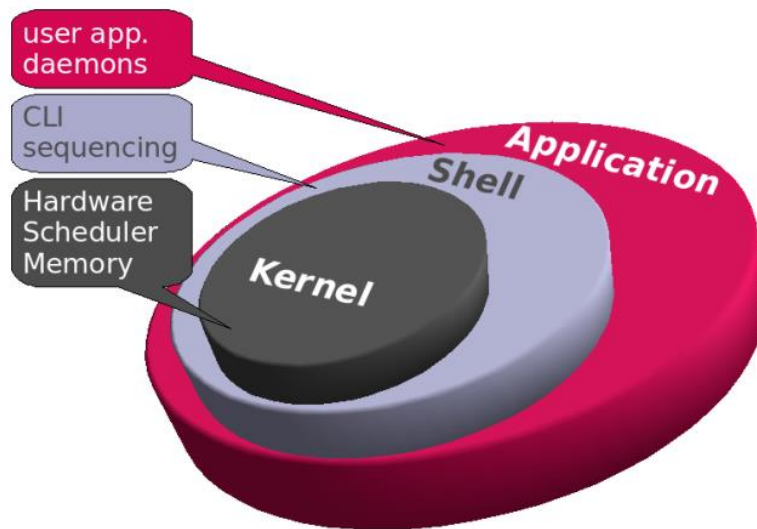
In Linux, there are different types of shells available such as bash, csh, ksh, and more. The most common shell is BASH (Bourne Again Shell) and it is the default shell on most Linux distributions.

There are several different types of shells available

in Linux, each with its own set of features and capabilities. Some of the most common shells in Linux are:

1. **BASH** (Bourne Again Shell): BASH is the most common shell in Linux and is the default shell on most Linux distributions. BASH is an enhanced version of the original Bourne shell and has many features that make it user-friendly and powerful. It provides a command-line interface, supports command history, command line editing, and has a wide range of built-in commands.
2. **CSH** (C Shell): CSH is similar to the C programming language and is often used by programmers. It has a more complex syntax than BASH, and it allows for the use of control structures like if-else and while loops.
3. **KSH** (Korn Shell): KSH is an enhanced version of the Bourne shell, and it has many of the same features as BASH, but it also includes some additional features such as command line editing and command history.
4. **TCSH** (TC Shell): TCSH is an enhanced version of CSH, and it includes many of the same features as KSH, but it also includes additional features such as job control and command line editing.
5. **ZSH** (Z Shell): ZSH is similar to BASH and KSH, but it has a large number of additional features such as command line editing, command history, and built-in support for plugins and themes.
6. **FISH** (Friendly Interactive Shell): FISH is designed to be user-friendly, it provides an interactive, user-friendly and syntax highlighting.

All these shells have their own advantages and disadvantages, and the choice of which shell to use depends on the user's needs and preferences.





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Here are some **advantages and disadvantages** of some of the most common shells in Linux:

## 1. BASH (Bourne Again Shell): Advantages:

- BASH is the most common shell in Linux, and it is the default shell on most Linux distributions.
- BASH is user-friendly and easy to learn, with a simple syntax and a wide range of built-in commands.
- BASH has a large and active community of users and developers, so there is a lot of support and documentation available.

### Disadvantages:

- BASH does not have as many advanced features as some of the other shells, such as command line editing and job control.

## 2. CSH (C Shell): Advantages:

- CSH is similar to the C programming language, so it can be more familiar for programmers.
- CSH allows for the use of control structures like if-else and while loops, which can be useful for scripting.

### Disadvantages:

- CSH has a more complex syntax than BASH, which can make it harder to learn for non-programmers.
- CSH does not have as large a community of users and developers as BASH, so there may be less support and documentation available.

## 3. KSH (Korn Shell): Advantages:

- KSH is an enhanced version of the Bourne shell and has many of the same features as BASH.
- KSH includes additional features such as command line editing and command history, which can make it more powerful and efficient.

### Disadvantages:

- KSH is not as widely used as BASH, so there may be less support and documentation available.

## 4. TCSH (TC Shell): Advantages:

- TCSH is an enhanced version of CSH, and it includes many of the same features as KSH.
- TCSH includes additional features such as job control and command line editing, which can make it more powerful and efficient.

### Disadvantages:

- TCSH is not as widely used as BASH, so there may be less support and documentation available.

## 5. ZSH (Z Shell): Advantages:

- ZSH is similar to BASH and KSH, but it has a large number of additional features such as command line editing, command history, and built-in support for plugins and themes.
- ZSH is more interactive and user-friendly than other shells.



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## **Disadvantages:**

- ZSH can have a steeper learning curve than other shells, as it has more features to learn.

## **6. FISH (Friendly Interactive Shell): Advantages:**

- FISH is designed to be user-friendly, it provide a interactive, user-friendly and syntax highlighting.
- FISH comes with features such as auto-suggestions, and it makes the shell experience more pleasant.

## **Disadvantages:**

- FISH is not as widely used as BASH, so there may be less support and documentation available.

As you can see, all shells have their own advantages and disadvantages. The choice of which shell to use depends on the user's needs and preferences, and what you're looking for in a shell.

The Linux kernel is the core of the Linux operating system. It is responsible for managing system resources, such as memory and processing power, and providing a interface between the system's hardware and software.

The focus of the Linux kernel is to provide a stable, efficient, and secure operating system. It is designed to be modular and highly configurable, allowing it to be easily adapted to different hardware platforms and use cases.

## **Focus on Kernel:**

The Linux kernel also provides a wide range of features and services, including:

- **Memory management:** The kernel manages the system's memory and provides virtual memory, which allows programs to use more memory than is physically available.
- **Process management:** The kernel controls the scheduling and execution of processes and threads, and provides inter-process communication (IPC) mechanisms.
- **File system management:** The kernel manages the file systems on the system and provides a wide range of file system drivers, including support for popular file systems such as ext4 and NTFS.
- **Networking:** The kernel provides a wide range of networking features, including support for different network protocols (TCP/IP, UDP, etc.) and network interfaces (Ethernet, WiFi, etc.).
- **Device drivers:** The kernel provides a wide range of device drivers, including support for different types of hardware such as storage devices, printers, and input devices.
- **Security:** The kernel includes a number of security features, such as access controls and process isolation, to help protect the system from unauthorized access and malicious attacks.
- **Virtualization:** The kernel provides support for virtualization technologies such as KVM, Docker and others which allow multiple virtual machines to run on a single physical machine.

Overall, the Linux kernel is a highly versatile and powerful component of the Linux operating system, providing a wide range of features and services to support a wide range of use cases.