
CREATING YOUR OWN SHELL

OVERVIEW

This assignment will require you to implement a simplified shell that parses a command entered by the user and creates new processes to execute specific programs and performs input and output redirection and background execution. Your shell must prevent the creation of zombie processes by handling process termination appropriately. Your shell will not contain all the functionality of a production shell, but will be sufficient to demonstrate the basics in process creation, destruction, and synchronization.

THE PROGRAM

This is a two-part project to implement the program `myshell`. In the first part, your program must parse an input string into a structure that can be used by the second part to create a new process, handle input and output redirection and background/foreground execution.

PART 1:

Your program must perform the following actions:

1. Display a prompt on *stdout*.
2. Accept a command as a string from the user (input string will terminate with a newline character).
 - a. The program must terminate when the command *exit* is entered.
3. Parse the input string into tokens, which are single words delimited by one or more spaces, tabs, or newline characters.
4. Store the tokens in a provided structure shown below.
5. Print the contents of the structure using the `printParams()` function, which is provided and explained below, but only when the shell is started with the debug option `-Debug`. Otherwise, the contents of the string will not be printed.
6. Return back to step 1.

The structure used to store the parsed input is shown below. I have included a defined value to indicate the maximum number of tokens you will find on the command line.

```
/* don't test program with more than this many tokens for input */
#define MAXARGS 32
/* structure to hold input data */
struct PARAM
{
    char *inputRedirect;          /* file name or NULL */
    char *outputRedirect;        /* file name or NULL */
    int background;              /* either 0 (false) or 1 (true) */
    int argumentCount;           /* number of tokens in argument vector */
    char *argumentVector[MAXARGS]; /* array of strings */
};

/* a typedef so we don't need to use "struct PARAM" all the time */
typedef struct PARAM Param_t;
```

Notice that the first three components of the struct are special. The first two indicate that either input redirection or output redirection is desired. The third indicates whether or not the background operator has been found on the command-line. Consider this line of input shown with the prompt \$\$\$.

```
$$$ one two three <four >five &
```

When the line is parsed, the first two tokens are not special, so they should be placed in `argumentVector[0]` and `argumentVector[1]`. When the fifth token is extracted, it is identified as an output redirection because of the beginning character ('>'). The characters following immediately the redirection indicator form the name of the file to which output should be redirected. The name of the output file ("five") should be stored in `outputRedirect`. Similarly, the beginning character ('<') of the forth token identifies input redirection and the characters following the redirect character specifies the name of the file from which input should be read. You may or may not allow for spaces following the input and output redirection indicator. If you allow for spaces, the token following the redirection indicator must identify the filename. If you disallow spaces and no filename is specified, an error message must be generated. The name of the input file ("four") should be stored in `inputRedirect`. The fifth token is stored in `argumentVector[2]`. Backgrounding is indicated by the ampersand (&) and is recorded by setting the value of `background` to 1. If it is included in an input string, it must always appear as the last character in the string. Overall, an acceptable input is a single text line ending by a new line character that follows the syntax as shown below:

```
[ token [ ' ' | '\t' ] * ] * [token] [<input] [>output] [&]
```

In this notation, `[]` indicates an optional parameter, `*` indicates 0 or more times the value in the brackets, and `|` indicates alternatives.

Once the input line is parsed and the structure elements are properly set, you must print the structure with the following function when the shell is in debug mode.

```
void printParams(Param_t * param)
{
    int i;
    printf ("InputRedirect: [%s]\n",
        (param->inputRedirect != NULL) ? param->inputRedirect:"NULL");
    printf ("OutputRedirect: [%s]\n",
        (param->outputRedirect != NULL) ? param->outputRedirect:"NULL");
    printf ("Background: [%d]\n", param->background);
    printf ("ArgumentCount: [%d]\n", param->argumentCount);
    for (i = 0; i < param->argumentCount; i++)
        printf("ArgumentVector[%2d]: [%s]\n", i, param->argumentVector[i]);
}
```

PART II:

You must extend the previous program to create a basic shell program. The functionality of your shell program is similar to that of a production shell such as a c-shell or a bourne shell found in many operating systems. Input from a command line is read, interpreted, and executed. Input/Output redirection as well as foreground/background execution must also be implemented. However, interprocess-communication will not need to be implemented for this project.

Your program is not required to be "bulletproof". You can assume that input data will follow the description given in class. You may NOT assume that input data is valid. That is, the command may be misspelled. For example, I could test your code by entering the command *cqt file* instead of *cat file*. Your shell should provide a short and

descriptive message explaining the error that has occurred. Your shell must continue processing commands until the exit command is typed. Before terminating execution, your shell must make certain that all background child processes have exited. In other words, the parent cannot terminate until all children have terminated.

For testing your shell, you need to download the *slow* program from *eLearning* in the Content area for Processes. The slow process will allow you to test if you handled the execution of background processes properly.

Your shell must be started from the command line according to the following syntax:

```
myshell [-Debug]
```

The option `-Debug` may be provided to print out the structure of a parsed command. Be sure that your Makefile produces the program `myshell` and not any program name of your choice.

SAMPLE TEST CASES

The following describes a list of test cases as a starting point for testing your work. Your program must pass at least these tests for you to receive full credit. Additional test cases may be used during grading.

Command	Explanation
<code>ls -l</code>	shows a listing of files in the current directory
<code>ls -l >testfile.txt</code>	writes a listing of files into the text file <i>testfile.txt</i>
<code>grep -i shell testfile.txt</code>	list many lines containing the word shell in the previous file
<code>cat <myshell.c</code>	displays the source code of the program on the screen
<code>cat <myshell.c &</code>	as above except the output will be displayed in the background causing the prompt of the shell to be mixed with the output of the file
<code>cat testfile.txt &</code>	displays the content of the text file <i>testfile.txt</i> on the screen in the background
<code>./slow &</code>	runs the program slow from the current working directory in the background
<code>exit</code>	terminates the shell; all child processes must be terminated for the shell to close avoiding creation of zombie processes

SUGGESTED SYSTEM CALLS

Most implementation details are left for you to decide. Below is a list of system calls that you need to use in the implementation of your program. You may use additional system calls as necessary. You may not use the `system(3)` function, nor use assistance from a production shell program to do any of the work for you.

For part I:

- `fgets(3)` – input characters and strings
- `strtok(3)` – extract tokens from strings
- `printf(3)` – formatted output conversion

For part II:

- `exec(2)` – (`execl()` or `execvp()` or `execv()`, ...) execute a file
- `fork(2)` – create a new process (exactly like the parent process)
- `freopen(3C)` – opens a stream (change an open stream to some other file)

- `waitpid(2)` or `wait(2)` – wait for a child process to change state (or terminate)

DELIVERABLES

Your project submission should follow the instructions below. Any submissions that do not follow the stated requirements will not be graded.

1. Follow the submission requirements of your instructor as published on *eLearning* under the Content area.
2. You should have at a minimum the following files for this assignment:
 - a. `myshell.c` (implements the shell)
 - b. `parse.c` (implements the command line parser of the shell)
 - c. `parse.h` (defines the functionality you want to expose)
 - d. `Makefile`
 - e. `README`

The `README` file describes purpose and usage of your program. The file `parse.c` provides the parse functionality implemented in **Part I** to parse the input string into the given structure. It is important that you refactor your code so that the main function is in `myshell.c`. Keep in mind that documentation of source code is an essential part of programming. If you do not include comments in your source code, points will be deducted.

Your program will be evaluated according to the steps shown below. Notice that warnings and errors are not permitted and will make grading quick!

1. Program compilation with `Makefile`. The options `-g` and `-Wall` must be enabled in the `Makefile`. See the sample `Makefile` that I uploaded in *eLearning*.
 - If errors occur during compilation, there will be a substantial deduction. The instructor will not fix your code to get it to compile.
 - If warnings occur during compilation, there will be a deduction. The instructor will test your code.
2. Perform several evaluation runs with input of the grader's own choosing. At a minimum, the test runs address the following questions.
 - Are commands created correctly using `fork()` and `exec()`?
 - Is input/output redirection correctly implemented?
 - Is foreground/background processing correctly implemented?
 - Does the program terminate correctly when `exit` is entered?
 - Does the shell program wait for all children to terminate before it terminates?

DUE DATE

The project is due September 20th by 11:00 pm to the Dropbox for project 1 in *eLearning*. Also upload your complete solution to the testing server. I will not accept submissions emailed to me or the grader. Upload ahead of time, as last minute uploads may fail.

GRADING

This project is worth 100 points in total. The rubric used for grading is included below. Keep in mind that there will be deductions if your code does not compile, has memory leaks, or is otherwise, poorly documented or organized.

Correct Submission Format	Perfect	Attempted	Deficient	
eLearning	2 points Deliverable zipped in folder 'AStudentProj#'	1 point	0 points	
Testing Server	2 points	1 point	0 points	
Compilation & Documentation	Perfect	Good	Attempted	Deficient
Makefile	4 points make & make clean	3 points	2 points	0 points
Compiles	10 points	7 points Some warnings	3 points Some errors	0 points
Documentation & Style	Perfect	Good	Attempted	Deficient
Documentation & Style	5 points Functions documented. Student-written files have file comment header: Student Name, Filename, Assignment Number, Class. Whitespace used properly.	3 points	2 points	0 points
tokenization	10 points	7 points	3 points	0 points
parameter processing	10 points	7 points	3 points	0 points
creates new process	13 points	9 points	4 points	0 points
input & output redirection	14 points	9 points	5 points	0 points
backgrounding	15 points	10 points	5 points	0 points
avoids zombies	15 points	10 points	5 points	0 points

TESTING

Test your code thoroughly on the public servers `ssh.cs.uwf.edu` using the above test cases. We will test your program on a testing server (to be announced in class) that uses the same OS and programming environment as the public servers.

COMMENTS

I strongly recommend you starting to work on this project right away to leave enough time for handling unexpected problems. Insert lots of output statements to help debug your program. You should consider using debugging techniques from the first programming practice I posted in *eLearning*. Compile with the `-DDEBUG=1` option until you are confident your program works as expected. Then recompile without using the `-D` option to “turn off” the debugging output statements. Note the `DEBUG` option provided to the compiler is different from the `DEBUG` option for program execution. The compiler uses `-DDEBUG=1` to compile your code with any debug information you provided via preprocessor directives.