06 – Wildcards, loops, and variables

CS 2043: Unix Tools and Scripting, Spring 2019 [1]

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Chaining Commands

Your Environment and Variables

- There are various *environment* variables defined for your shell.
- They are almost always all capital letters.
- You obtain their value by dereferencing them with a `$`.

```
$ echo $PWD    # present working directory
$ echo $OLDPWD # print previous working directory
$ printenv     # print all environment variables
```

- There are also *local* variables you can use / set.
- Primary difference:
  - *Environment* variables are available in your shell, *and* in scripts.
  - *Local* variables are *only* available in your shell.
    - "Shell" here just means "current terminal session."

What is Defined?

- The environment:
  - `env`: displays all environment variables.
  - `unsetenv <var_name>`: remove an environment variable.
  - Create an environment variable*:
    1. `env ENV_VAR_NAME="value"`
    2. `export ENV_VAR_NAME="value"`
  - `export` is the most common. Exceptional explanation here.
- The local variables:
  - `set`: displays all shell / local variables.
  - `unset <var_name>`: remove a local shell variable.
  - Create a local variable*:
    1. `set local_var="value"`
    2. `local_var="value"`

* These only last for the current shell session; we will learn how to make them “permanent” soon.

Brief Example: Environment Variable Manipulation

```
# MY_ENV_VAR is not set yet, so nothing prints
$ echo "My env var is: $MY_ENV_VAR"
My env var is:

# Set the environment variable (can also use `export` in bash)
$ env MY_ENV_VAR="Lemming King"

# Now that we have set it, print it
$ echo "My env var is: $MY_ENV_VAR"
My env var is: Lemming King

# "Delete" with `unsetenv`. Print again, confirming it's gone
# Emphasis: there *is* an `env` after `unset`
$ unsetenv MY_ENV_VAR
$ echo "My env var is: $MY_ENV_VAR"
My env var is:
```

Brief Example: Local Variable Manipulation

```
# my_local_var is not set yet, so nothing prints
$ echo "My local var is: $my_local_var"
My local var is:

# Just declare it (can also use the `set` command)
$ my_local_var="King of the Lemmings"

# Now that we have set it, print it
$ echo "My local var is: $my_local_var"
My local var is: King of the Lemmings

# "Delete" with `unset`. Print again, confirming it's gone
# Emphasis: there is *not* an `env` after `unset`
$ unset my_local_var
$ echo "My local var is: $my_local_var"
My local var is:
```

Exit Codes

- When you execute commands, they have an “exit code”.
  - This how you “signal” to others in the shell: through exit codes.
- The exit code of the *last command executed* is stored in `$?`
- There are various exit codes, here are a few examples:

```
$ super_awesome_command
bash: super_awesome_command: command not found...
$ echo $?
127
$ echo "What is the exit code we want?"
What is the exit code we want?
$ echo $?
0
```

- The success code we want is actually **`0`**. Refer to [2].
- Remember `cat` with no args? You will have to `ctrl+c` to kill it, what would the exit code be?

Executing Multiple Commands in a Row

- With exit codes, we can define some simple rules to chain commands together:
- Always execute:

```
$ cmd1; cmd2   # exec cmd1 first, then cmd2
```

- Execute conditioned upon exit code of `cmd1`:

```
$ cmd1 && cmd2 # exec cmd2 only if cmd1 returned 0
$ cmd1 || cmd2 # exec cmd2 only if cmd1 returned NOT 0
```

  - Kind of backwards, in terms of what means continue for *and*, but that was likely easier to implement since there is only one **`0`** and many *not* **`0`**'s.

Returning to scripts!

Bash Scripting at a Glance

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
# declare some variables
NAME="Sven Nevs"
MSK_ID=$(id -u)
# A simple if statement
if [[ $MSK_ID -eq 0 ]]; then
    echo "Executing as root."
else
    echo "Executing as normal user."
fi
# Expand variable inside string:
# Only because using _double_ quotes
echo "You are: $NAME"
# A simple for loop using a {} range
for n in {1..11}; do
    # String concatenation is easy!
    echo '$n is: '"$n"
    # Single quotes for literal $,
    # or use \$ in double quotes
done
```

- Use the shebang:
  `#!/usr/bin/env bash`
- Declare variables…
  - …no spaces!
- Use variables…
  - …dereference with `$`
- Execute commands…
  - **`$(command ...)`**
  - `` `command ...` ``
- If statements and loops.
- NEVER use aliases in bash scripts. EVER.

Storing command output

- Two options for storing output of command in variable:
  - Surround it with backticks `` `...cmd...` ``:

```
var="`echo hello world`"
```

  - Surround it with `$(...cmd...)`:

```
var="$(echo hello world)"
```

  - Prefer **`$(...)`**, backticks are *deprecated*.

- Print debugging with `echo` can be very helpful, a bad example:

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
# status will be empty because we redirected `stdout`
# from `echo` to `/dev/null`!
status="$(echo "error string" > /dev/null)"
echo "status is: '$status'"
```

Conditional Statements

If Conditionals

- If statements are structured just as you would expect

```
if [ CONDITION_1 ]
then
    # statements
elif [ CONDITION_2 ]
then
    # statements
else
    # statements
fi  # fi necessary
```

```
# The `then` is necessary...
# use semicolon to shorten code
if [ CONDITION_1 ]; then
    # statements
elif [ CONDITION_2 ]; then
    # statements
else
    # statements
fi  # fi necessary
```

- Double brackets (`bash` only!) `[[ expr ]]` allow for more features e.g., boolean operations.

```
if [[ CONDITION_1 ]] || [[ CONDITION_2 ]]; then
    # statements
fi
```

  - `elif` and `else` clauses *allowed*, **not** *required*.

BE VERY CAREFUL WITH SPACES!

- Spaces on both the *outside* **and** the *inside* **necessary**!

```
# bash: syntax error near unexpected token `then`
if[[ 0 -eq 0 ]]; then echo "Hiya"; fi
```

```
# bash: [[0 command not found...
if [[0 -eq 0 ]]; then echo "Hiya"; fi
```

```
# bash: syntax error in conditional expression:
#       unexpected token `;'
# bash: syntax error near `;'
if [[ 0 -eq 0]]; then echo "Hiya"; fi
```

```
# This has spaces after if, and before brackets (works)!
if [[ 0 -eq 0 ]]; then echo "Hiya"; fi
```

Test Expressions

- Bash has a special set of commands that allow various checks.
- Numerical comparisons (often used with variables):
  - `$n1 -eq $n2` tests if $n1 = n2$.
  - `$n1 -ne $n2` tests if $n1 \neq n2$.
  - `$n1 -lt $n2` tests if $n1 < n2$.
  - `$n1 -le $n2` tests if $n1 \leq n2$.
  - `$n1 -gt $n2` tests if $n1 > n2$.
  - `$n1 -ge $n2` tests if $n1 \geq n2$.
  - If either `$n1` or `$n2` are not a number, the test *fails*.
- String comparisons:
  - `"$s1" == "$s2"` tests if `s1` and `s2` are identical.
  - `"$s1" != "$s2"` tests if `s1` and `s2` are different.
  - Make sure you have spaces!
    - `"$s1"=="$s2"` will *fail*...
  - For strings in particular, **use double quotes**!
    - If string has spaces *and* no double quotes used, it will *fail*.

Path Testing

- Test if `/some/path` exists: `-e /some/path`
- Test if `/some/path` is a file: `-f /some/path`
- Test if `/some/path` is a directory: `-d /some/path`
- Test if `/some/path` can be read: `-r /some/path`
- Test if `/some/path` can be written to: `-w /some/path`
- Test if `/some/path` can be executed: `-x /some/path`
- Test if `/some/path` is an empty file: `-s /some/path`
    - **Many** more of these, refer to [3] for more.

Path Testing Example

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
path="/tmp"
if [[ -e "$path" ]]; then
    echo "Path '$path' exists."
    if [[ -f "$path" ]]; then
        echo "--> Path '$path' is a file."
    elif [[ -d "$path" ]]; then
        echo "--> Path '$path' is a directory."
    fi
else
    echo "Path '$path' does not exist."
fi
```

- Output from script:

```
Path '/tmp' exists.
--> Path '/tmp' is a directory.
```

Warning About Saving Exit Codes

- If you need to work with the exit code more than once...
- ...**always** save it!
    - A contrived example.
- Simply put, get in the habit of **always** saving `cmd_exit=$?`
- Then use `$cmd_exit` in your *test* expressions.

Loops

For Loops

```
# Delineate by spaces, loop:
# s1, then s2, then s3, then s4
for var in s1 s2 s3 s4; do
    echo "Var: $var"
done
```

```
# Output:
# Var: s1
# Var: s2
# Var: s3
# Var: s4
```

```
# Brace expansion:
# 00, 01, ..., 11
for var in {00..11}; do
    echo "Var: $var"
done
```

```
# Output:
# Var: 00
# Var: 01
# Var: ...
# Var: 11
```

```
# "Traditional" for Loop:
# 0, 1, ..., 11
for (( i = 0; i <= 11; ++i )); do
    echo "i: $i"
done
```

```
# Output:
# i: 0
# i: 1
# i: ...
# i: 11
```

Bash Basics

Arithmetic Expansion

- Arithmetic expressions are encased in `$(( expr ))`

```
$ echo $(( 2 + 3 )) # standard addition
5
$ echo $(( 2 < 3 )) # less than: true is 1
1
$ echo $(( 2 > 3 )) # greater than: false is 0
0
$ echo $(( 2 / 3 )) # division: BASH IS ONLY INTEGERS!!!
0
$ x=10              # set a variable
$ echo $(( x++ ))   # post increment: only for variables,
10                  # does it AFTER...
$ echo "$x"         # ...but see it did increment
11
$ echo $(( ++x ))   # pre increment: only for variables,
12                  # does it BEFORE....
$ echo "$x"         # ...only one increment took place
12
$ sum=$(( $x+10 ))  # use variables like normal,
$ echo "$sum"       # note: no quotes "$x" needed in
22                  # arithmetic $(( expressions ))
```

Warning on Arithmetic Expansions

- Exponentiation example: `x ** y` $\Longrightarrow$ x^y

```
# bash: syntax error near unexpected token `('
$ x=(( 2 ** 3 ))
```

```
# Execute ls: I have only one file 'multiply.sh'
$ x="(( 2 ** 3 ))"
$ echo $x
(( 2 multiply.sh 3 ))
```

```
# That $ before the (( expr )) is NECESSARY!
$ x=$(( 2 ** 3 ))
$ echo $x
8
```

- Leading `$` in **`$(( expr ))`** is syntactically required.
  - Just like `$x` to read value
  - or `var="$(...cmd...)"`

Passing Arguments to Scripts

- When you pass arguments to a bash script, you can access them in a few different ways:
  - `$1`, `$2`, ..., `$10`, `$11`: values of the first, second, etc arguments
    - If 3 arguments given, `$4`, `$5`, ... higher are **empty**.
  - `$0` is the name of the script.
  - `$#` is the number of arguments (`argc` in `C`).
  - `$?` is the exit code of the last program executed.
    - You can have your script set this with `exit <number>` (read `man exit`).
    - No explicit call to `exit` same as `exit 0` (aka success).
  - `$$` is the current process identification number (PID).
  - `$*` expands `$1 .. $n` into one string.
    - `$*` $\implies$ `"$1 $2 ... $n"` (one string)
  - `$@` expands `$1 .. $n` into individual strings.
    - `$@` $\implies$ `"$1" "$2" ... "$n"` (n strings)

multiply.sh

See demo file `multiply.sh`.

toLower.sh

See demo file `toLower.sh`.

expansion.sh

See demo file `expansion.sh`.

back to loops

While Loops

```
s="s" # Test expression comparison
while [[ "$s" != "ssss" ]]; do
    echo "$s" # prepend s until
    s="s$s"   # target length reached
done
```

```
# Output:
# s
# ss
# sss
# ssss
```

```
x=0 # Arithmetic comparison
while (( x <= 11 )); do
    echo "x: $x"
    (( ++x ))
done
```

```
# Output:
# x: 0
# x: 1
# x: ...
# x: 11
```

```
# Loop through lines in file
file="filename.txt"
while read -r line; do
    echo "Line: $line"
done < "$file"
```

- Print every line in a POSIX-compliant file.
- See full demo at end of lecture!

Until Loops

- `bash` is one of the few languages that has an `until` loop:

```
x=0
until (( x == 4 )); do
    echo "x: $x"
   (( x++ ))
done
```

```
# Output:
# x: 0
# x: 1
# x: 2
# x: 3
```

- The `until` loop is exactly how it sounds: execute the loop body *until* the condition evaluates to **true**.
- So once `x` is 4, `(( x == 4 ))` is `true`, loop stops.
  - Loop body not executed when `x == 4`, so `x: 4` **not** printed.
  - Like **`for`** and **`while`**, can also use *test expressions*:

```
until [[ $x -eq 4 ]]; do
```

Looping Through Files

See lecture demo on looping through files.

Customizing your Terminal

What is it and Why?

- You will spend **a lot** of time in your terminal.
- It's worth spending a little time to configure it how you want.
- Customizations allow you to be
  1. More effective.
  2. Perform common operations more quickly.
  3. Make your terminal appear more comfortable *for you*.
  4. A super all-star-hacker-pro with l33t skillz.
- Think of it this way: it's like buying a new house. Paint the walls, build a tool shed, meet your neighbors, throw some parties. Why buy it if you weren't going to make it yours?
  - Why use the default terminal just because it came that way?
  - COME ON YOU CAN TOTALLY DO BETTER!

What are Dotfiles?

- "Dotfiles" change, add, or enhance existing functionality.
  - The files reside in your home (`~`) directory.
  - They are hidden files: their names start with a `.`
- Some common dotfiles you'll hear about:

`~/.bashrc`	Controls **`bash`** terminal behavior*
`~/.bash_profile`	Controls **`bash`** environment variables*
`~/.profile`	Controls **`shell`** environment variables*
`~/.vimrc`	Controls the behavior of **`vim`**
`~/.gitconfig`	Controls the behavior of **`git`**
`~/.tmux.conf`	Controls the behavior of **`tmux`** (covered later)

- There are **many** possible dotfiles to customize.
- We will focus on configuring **`vim`** and our shell (**`bash`**).

* What these *do* depends on what **you** write in them! See lecture demo.

The Source of All Things

- So we now know a little bit about how a script is structured.
- It just executes from the top to the bottom.
- The shebang says how to run it. But...

Execute source in Current Shell

```
source <filename> [arguments]
```

- *Executing* script **B** from script **A** runs **B** in a *subshell*.
- *Sourcing* script **B** from script **A** executes in *current shell*.
    - If script **B** `exit`s, then script **A** `exit`s!
- Think of it like copy-pasting **B** into **A** at the line where `source B` is written in **A**.
- Just like `#include <header.h>` in **C** if you know it.
- Fundamental to the initial shell setup process:
    - All dotfiles related to your **`shell`** are *sourced*.

What Happens When

- There is a **lot** going on with dotfiles; no “standard” protocol.
- What happens when depends on:
  1. Your operating system.
  2. The shell you are using.
  3. For graphical logins, what your desktop / window manager is.
- There is an important difference between types of shells:
  - There is a “login” shell, and a “interactive” shell.
  - “Login” shell: takes place *once*, when you login.
    - `~/.profile`, `~/.bash_profile`, `~/.zprofile`, depending on what your shell is.
  - “Interactive” shell: takes *every time* you spawn a new shell.
    - E.g. `ctrl+shift+n` on Linux, `cmd+n` on Mac.
    - Inherits all actions that took place at *login*.
    - `~/.bashrc`, `~/.zshrc` depending on what your shell is.

Login Actions: Precursor

- There is even still an important distinction:
  - A graphical login (logging in through the GUI).
  - A login shell (disabled GUI, or used `ssh` or something).
- Graphical logins:
  - I will not cover this. There is **way** too much going on.
  - Depends on what your GUI (Gnome, KDE, etc) is.
  - A **fantastic** explanation in [4].
    - Hey! Look around the rest of the site!
    - Lots of other *great* information available!!!
- Login shells:
  - For simplicity, assume that when you login through your GUI, it triggers a login shell to be called.
  - This is mostly true, but not exactly.
  - Discussion to come: Bourne shells (`bash`, `ksh`, ...) vs `zsh`
    - Only because Bourne shells and `zsh` are "incompatible".

Login Shells

- Where do the environment variables like $PATH come from?
- For Bourne Shells:
  1. System level configuration files are sourced. Same for all users.
     - The file `/etc/profile` is sourced.
     - Do **NOT** edit this file directly. It sources *anything* found in `/etc/profile.d/*.sh`. Put additional resources there.
     - This is where **PATH** among many other variables is getting set!
  2. User-level configuration files are sourced (if found).
     - `bash` looks for `~/.bash_profile` **first**. If it sees it, it sources it.
     - Only if `bash` does not find `~/.bash_profile`, it looks for `~/.bash_login` next and then `~/.profile` last.
     - `ksh`, on the other hand, only looks for `~/.profile`.
- For `zsh`, the same pattern occurs:
  1. System level configuration: `/etc/zprofile`.
     - Typically, it *emulates* `ksh` and sources `/etc/profile`!
  2. Look for `~/.zprofile`.

Know Your Shell

- `$SHELL` reports *your* default shell (`echo $SHELL`).
- How do I know what my shell looks for and in what order?
  - `man <shell>` and search for `INVOCATION` as well as `FILES`.
  - Or cruise the Arch Wiki – they're great! E.g. Arch on `zsh`.

Change your Login Shell

```
chsh -s /absolute/path/to/new/shell username
```

- GNU and BSD `chsh` are slightly different, **read the `man` page**!
- Example usage to change `$SHELL` for `username`:

```
$ sudo chsh -s /usr/local/bin/bash username
```

- Above example specific to macOS users who did `brew install bash`
  - `brew` installs the newer `bash` to `/usr/local/bin/bash`
  - macOS cannot ship Bash 4 or later (GPL v3 license).
- **Warning**: do **not** change the `$SHELL` of the `root` user!
- Typically, `chsh` will modify `/etc/passwd`
  - `grep` your `username` and read last field.

Interactive Shells

- Your environment is already setup and ready to go now that you have logged in.
- Now do the lightweight configurations, put in your `rc` file.
  - The `~/.bashrc` for `bash`
  - The `~/.kshrc` for `ksh`
  - The `~/.zshrc` for `zsh`
- Things you put in these files:
  - Shell specific `alias`es, **`function`**s, etc.
- Things you **never** do:
  - `source ~/.bash_profile` from `~/.bashrc` for example.
  - It goes the other way: `~/.bash_profile` sources `~/.bashrc`
  - Initial *login* shell is is when `*profile` get sourced.
    - The `~/.bashrc` is **not** sourced on login automatically.
    - Only if **you** do it (almost every distribution does this by default).

Aliases

Creating Aliases

```
alias <new-name> <old-name>
```

- Aliases **new-name** to be **old-name**, e.g. `alias ..='cd ..'`
  - Can now type `..` to go up one directory.
- Should not ever be used in scripts.
  - Disabled by default, battle to use them — **very** bad practice.
  - I don't have your aliases, so now I can't run your script.
- Usually stored in `~/.<shell>rc` file, though `~/.<shell>_aliases` is slowly gaining traction.
  - Make sure you **source** `~/.<shell>_aliases` from `~/.<shell>rc` or else they won't be available!!!
  - E.g. **bash**: `~/.bashrc` sources `~/.bash_aliases`, or
  - **zsh**: `~/.zshrc` sources `~/.zsh_aliases`

Modifying your Terminal Prompt

- The `$PS1` variable controls what shows up when you type in your terminal.
  - In `zsh` this is `$PROMPT`.
- List of all options here.
- Common: `export PS1="\u@\h:\w> "`
  - `usr@hostname:current/working/directory>`
- Try changing your `$PS1` using `export` right now to see how you can modify it.
- Play with colors after, since they are tedious to type in the format needed.

Storing Customizations

- There are many such places that people put things, but generally speaking...
- Your `bashrc` should have things like aliases and functions. Limit the `export` calls to just things related to coloring the terminal.
- Your `bash_profile` should contain any special environment variables you need to define.
    - Typically when you are exporting things like `$PATH` or `$LD_LIBRARY_PATH` for something you have installed on your own.
- You should source your `bash_profile` from your `profile`, and you should source your `bashrc` from your `bash_profile`.

Customize!!!

References

[1] Stephen McDowell, Bruno Abrahao, Hussam Abu-Libdeh, Nicolas Savva, David Slater, and others over the years. “Previous Cornell CS 2043 Course Slides”.

[2] The Linux Documentation Project. *Exit Codes with Special Meanings*. 2017. URL: http://tldp.org/LDP/abs/html/exitcodes.html.

[3] The Linux Documentation Project. *Introduction to If*. 2017. URL: http://tldp.org/LDP/Bash-Beginners-Guide/html/sect_07_01.html#sect_07_01_01.

[4] Greg Wooledge. *Configuring your login sessions with dot files*. 2015. URL: http://mywiki.wooledge.org/DotFiles.