How to create a shell script

Note: A shell script is similar to a batch file in windows, in that you can add commands to the shell script and execute them by running the shell script, just like you would with a batch file.

A simple example

The following example shows how to create a shell script called "test.sh" that contains a simple command.
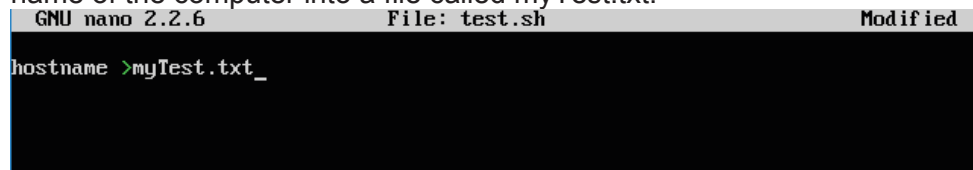
1: Create the shell script file

On the command prompt, create the file using "nano". As we want to create a file called "test.sh" then the command will be as follows:

sudo nano test.sh

This will open nano (a simple text editor) that will allow you to enter commands that you want the shell script to contain.
In the example below, it contains the command "**hostname >myTest.txt**" which will send the name of the computer into a file called myTest.txt.
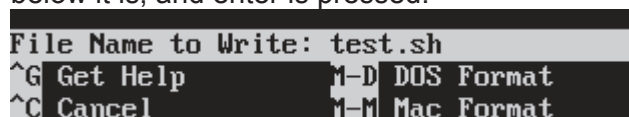
```
  GNU nano 2.2.6            File: test.sh                    Modified

hostname >myTest.txt_
```

Press "ctrl x" to exit. You should be presented with the question below - this is prompting you to save it. Press "y".

```
Save modified buffer (ANSWERING "No" WILL DESTROY CHANGES) ?
 Y Yes
 N No                    ^C Cancel
```

It will then prompt you to confirm that the file name is the filename you want. In the case below it is, and enter is pressed.

```
File Name to Write: test.sh
^G Get Help              M-D DOS Format
^C Cancel               M-M Mac Format
```

The file has now been created.

2: Running the script

To run the script created above, it's a simple a case of entering the following command (bash followed by the shell script file name):

bash test.sh

You'll know if this worked if you see a file has been created called "**myTest.txt**". Check that is has by running the command "**ls**".

Some useful links:
http://tldp.org/LDP/abs/html/dosbatch.html