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# Using Bash To Wait For Things To Happen — (Waiting With Bash)



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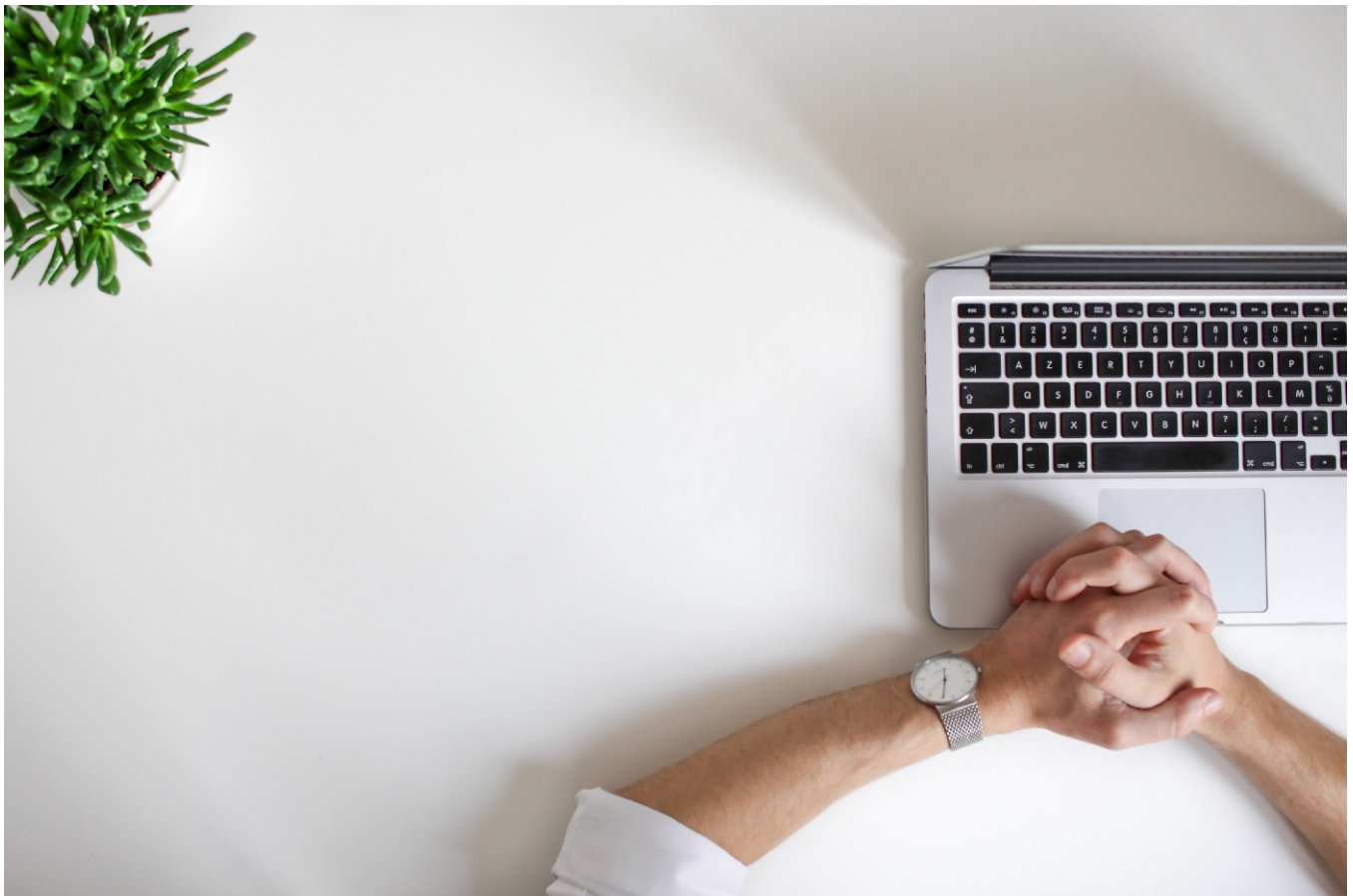


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Bash is great for scripting pretty much anything. One thing that can be annoying is having to wait for something else to happen before you can run your script.

I have gathered some helpful scripts which I use to help me when I need to wait for something to happen, think of this as a cheatsheet which I will update as and when I come across such scenarios.

## Waiting for an EC2 cloud init to complete:

When EC2 has finished initialising an instance, it will add a file at the location

```
/var/lib/cloud/instances/{instance-id}/boot-finished
```

If we wait for this file to exist, then we know the EC2 initialisation process has completed.

```
while true
do
    echo Waiting for boot-finished...
    if [ $(find /var/lib/cloud/instances -maxdepth 2 -name 'boot-
finished' -print -quit) ]; then
        break
    else..
        sleep 5
    fi
done
```

## Waiting for another instance of apt to complete (debian)

If another process is using apt to install something, you will get an error message similar to

```
amazon-ebs: Provisioning with shell script:
scripts/_prerequisites.sh
amazon-ebs: Hit:1 http://eu-west-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu
bionic InRelease
amazon-ebs: Hit:2 http://eu-west-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu
bionic-updates InRelease
amazon-ebs: Hit:3 http://eu-west-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu
bionic-backports InRelease
amazon-ebs: Hit:4 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-
security InRelease
amazon-ebs: Hit:5 http://apt.puppetlabs.com stretch InRelease
amazon-ebs: Reading package lists...
==> amazon-ebs: E: Could not get lock /var/lib/dpkg/lock-frontent -
open (11: Resource temporarily unavailable)
==> amazon-ebs: E: Unable to acquire the dpkg frontend lock
```

```
(/var/lib/dpkg/lock-frontend), is another process using it?  
==> amazon-ebs: E: Could not get lock /var/lib/dpkg/lock-frontend -  
open (11: Resource temporarily unavailable)  
==> amazon-ebs: E: Unable to acquire the dpkg frontend lock  
(/var/lib/dpkg/lock-frontend), is another process using it?
```

If we wait for the lock to be released, we then know that we are able to use apt.

```
while sudo fuser /var/{lib/{dpkg,apt/lists},cache/apt/archives}/lock  
>/dev/null 2>&1; do  
    echo Waiting for other instances of apt to complete...  
    sleep 5  
done
```

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