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## Shell script to get the time difference

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**Q.** I am able to write PHP or Perl script where I can find out time difference between script executions. Now I have .shtml file that is nothing but a shell script outputting some data to browser. What I want is time difference or time it took to execute a script. How do I write a shell script?

**A.** Your Logic should be as follows:

- \* Get start time and store to a variable START
- \* Execute a shell script
- \* Grab output and send to web browser
- \* Get time again and store to a variable END
- \* Calculate difference using expression END - START



[1]

## Shell script to get the time difference

Here is small script that does the same thing (please note that script tested on [GNU/Linux](#) and with GNU date command only):

```
$ vi timediff.bash
```

Append text as follows:

```
#!/bin/bash
START=$(date +%s)
# do something

# start your script work here
ls -R /etc > /tmp/x
rm -f /tmp/x
# your logic ends here

END=$(date +%s)
DIFF=$(( $END - $START ))
echo "It took $DIFF seconds"
```

Save and execute the script as follows:

```
$ chmod +x timediff.bash
```

Execute the script:

```
$ ./timediff.bash
```

Output:

```
It took 4 seconds
```

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