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What Is Bourne Shell?

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What is bourne shell?

Bourne Shell is the oldest [shell](#) ^[2]. It was written by Stephen Bourne at Bell Laboratories. The Bourne Shell has been the default shell for many UNIX like operating system and root users. It has been a de facto standard in the industry. The Bourne Shell has neither the interactive features, nor the complex programming constructs, of the C and Korn shells.



^[6]

/bin/sh

Bourne shell is located at /bin/sh

A modified and advanced version may be installed in modern UNIX like operating systems. It may be a symbolic link more feature-rich shell than the Bourne shell.

It is still used to write system initialization scripts located in /etc/rc.d/ or /usr/local/etc/rc.d or /etc/init.d/ scripts.

A Typical Example of /bin/sh Script From FreeBSD Operating System

```
#!/bin/sh
#
# $FreeBSD: src/etc/rc.d/cron,v 1.7.10.1.4.1 2009/04/15 03:14:26 kensmith Exp $
#

# PROVIDE: cron
# REQUIRE: LOGIN cleanvar
# BEFORE: securelevel
# KEYWORD: shutdown

. /etc/rc.subr

name="cron"
rcvar="`set_rcvar`"
command="/usr/sbin/${name}"
pidfile="/var/run/${name}.pid"

load_rc_config $name
if checkyesno cron_dst
then
    cron_flags="$cron_flags -s"
fi
run_rc_command "$1"
```

Bourne Shell Features

1. Command history feature : No (the ability to store commands in a buffer, then modified and reused)
2. Line editing feature : No (the ability to modify the current or previous command lines with a text editor)

3. Restricted shells : No (security feature providing a controlled environment with limited capabilities)

Series Navigation

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