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## Bash Shell Loop Over Set of Files

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**Q.** How do I run shell loop over set of files stored in a current directory or specified directory?

**A.** You can use for loop easily over a set of shell file under bash or any other UNIX shell using wild card character.



[1]

## Using a shell variable and for loop

You can use shell variable to store all file names. For example, store all \*.c file in a variable called FILES:

```
$ FILES="*.c"
```

Now to loop through all files, enter:

```
$ for f in "$FILES"; do echo "Processing $f file.."; done
```

## Sample shell script to loop through all files

```
#!/bin/bash
FILES="*"
for f in "$FILES"
do
    echo "Processing $f file..."
    # take action on each file. $f store current file name
    cat $f
done
```

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