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How to: Change User's bash profile under Linux / UNIX

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Q. How do I change my own profile? How do I change profile for other users? How do I setup global profile for all users under BASH shell?

A.. You need to add user profile to ~/.bash_profile. It is the personal initialization file, executed for login shells. There is also ~/.bashrc file which is the individual per-interactive-shell startup file. Common uses for ~/.bash_profile are to set environment variables such as PATH, JAVA_HOME, create aliases for shell commands and set the default permissions for newly created files etc. The file ~/.bashrc is similar, with the exception that .bash_profile runs only for Bash login shells and .bashrc runs for every new Bash shell.



[1]

Edit user .bash_profile file

Use vi command:

```
$ cd
$ vi .bash_profile
```

My same profile:

```
umask 022
if [ -f ~/.bashrc ]; then
    . ~/.bashrc
fi

if [ -d ~/bin ] ; then
    PATH=~/bin: "${PATH}"
fi

alias dironly='printf "%s\n" */'
alias dironlyv='echo */.'
alias dragon=~/.bin/showMenu.pl
export PATH=/usr/lib/jvm/java-6-sun-1.6.0.00/bin:${PATH}
```

.bashrc vs .bash_profile files

Let us see the difference with these two scripts:

~/.bashrc file runs every time you open a new non-login bash shell such as xterm / aterm, and
~/.bash_profile runs only with login shells i.e when you first log in into system.

/etc/profile - System wide global profile

The /etc/profile file is systemwide initialization file, executed for login shells. You can edit file using vi (login as root):

```
# vi /etc/profile
```

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