

# Adding to the Path (Lab)

 [coursera.org/learn/linux-for-developers/supplement/R8UNC/adding-to-the-path-lab](https://coursera.org/learn/linux-for-developers/supplement/R8UNC/adding-to-the-path-lab)

Create a simple executable file with the name **ls** in your current directory, which we will assume to be **/tmp**:

```
1  
2  
3  
$ cd /tmp  
  
$ echo echo Hello, This is MY ls program > ls  
  
$ chmod +x ls
```



You can run this directly by doing:

```
1  
  
$ ./ls
```



but just typing **ls** will bring up the normal **/bin/ls**, which can be verified by typing **which ls**.

If you do:

```
1  
  
$ export PATH=/tmp:$PATH
```



then typing **ls** will bring up your program no matter where you are sitting on the filesystem.

This is different than doing:

```
1  
  
$ export PATH=./:$PATH
```



which puts the current directory first in the path, no matter where you are, or

```
1  
  
$ export PATH=$PWD:$PATH
```



which will put the current working directory at this time in your future path.

Prepending your current directory to the path is generally a bad idea, as it makes trojan horses easy to implement.