

## *Learning zsh shell*

Reference\_book: [shell scripting zsh](#)

Reference\_Online Source: [Online Source](#)

## **zsh-shell**

### **History of zsh shell**

-Open source unix shell developed by Paul Falstad.

Some of the features that make the zsh shell unique are:

- Improved shell option handling
- Shell compatibility modes
- Loadable modules

The benefit of built-in commands is execution speed.

### **Parts of the zsh shell**

Upcoming built-in cmd, cli parameters and env variables.

### **Shell options**

Most shells use command line parameters to define the behavior of the shell. The zsh shell uses a few command line parameters to define the operation of the shell, but mostly it uses *options* to customize the behavior of the shell. You can set shell options either on the command line, or within the shell itself using the `set` command.

By far the zsh shell is the most customizable shell available.

### **The zsh Shell Command Line Parameters**

Parameter	Description
<code>-c</code>	Execute only the specified command and exit.
<code>-i</code>	Start as an interactive shell, providing a command line interface prompt.
<code>-s</code>	Force the shell to read commands from STDIN.
<code>-o</code>	Specify command line options.

## Shell state

There are six different zsh shell options that define the type of shell to start:

- interactive (-i): Provides a command line interface prompt for entering built-in commands and program names.
- login (-l): The default zsh shell type, processes the zsh shell startup files, and provides a command line interface prompt.
- privileged (-p): The default if the effective user ID (UID) of the user is not the same as the real UID (the user has become the root user). This option disables the user startup files.
- restricted (-r): Restricts the user to a specified directory structure in the shell.
- shin\_stdin (-s): Commands are read from STDIN.
- single\_command (-t): Executes a single command from STDIN and exits.

The shell states define whether or not the shell starts with a command line interface prompt, and what access the user has within the shell.

## The zshell files

-The zsh shell uses files at both login and logout to allow you to preset variables and features of the zsh shell.

-automatically looks for default files for setting environment.

There are 4 types of zsh file that shell can handle.

1. Shell startup file
2. login file
3. Interactive file
4. logout file

### **1. The shell startup files**

When you start a new zsh shell as a login shell (either by logging into the system, or by running the zsh shell program), the zsh shell looks for commands in two files.

The default system-wide zsh shell startup file is:

/etc/zshenv

After executing this file (if it exists), the zsh shell proceeds to the user's \$HOME directory and looks for the file:

\$HOME/.zshenv

You can test the order in which the zsh shell executes these files by performing a simple test using the echo statement in each file:

**WARNING: The locate database (/var/db/locate.database) does not exist.  
To create the database, run the following command:**

```
sudo launchctl load -w /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.locate.plist
```

**Please be aware that the database can take some time to generate; once  
the database has been created, this message will no longer appear.**

## 2. The shell login files

If you use the zsh shell as a login shell, it first looks for and executes two files.

- /etc/zlogin
- /etc/zprofile

These files are executed for all users who use the zsh shell as their login shell. The files should contain system-wide **environment variables** that should be set for all users, and executable programs that all users should use (such as the **umask** command to set default file and directory **permissions**). Most likely if you're using a Linux distribution that supports the zsh shell, these files already exist for setting system environment variables at login.

After executing this file, the zsh shell looks for two files in each user's \$HOME directory:

- \$HOME/.zlogin
- \$HOME/.zprofile

These files can contain user-specific environment variable settings, and executable commands that an individual user wants to run when logging in to the system, **before the command line interface prompt appears**.

Any environment variable settings you make in the **\$HOME/.zprofile** shell will **override** any system-wide settings made in the /etc/zprofile file, and similarly for the .zlogin files.

```
% zsh -l
This is the /etc/zshenv file.
This is the .zshenv file in HOME.
This is the /etc/zprofie file.
This is the .zprofile file in HOME.
This is the /etc/zlogin file.
This is the .zlogin file in HOME.
```

### **3. The interactive shell files**

If you start an interactive zsh shell session, there's another set of files that can hold startup variables and commands:

- /etc/zshrc
- \$HOME/.zshrc

```
% zsh -l
This is the /etc/zshenv file.
This is the .zshenv file in HOME.
This is the /etc/zprofile file.
This is the .zprofile file in HOME.
This is the /etc/zshrc file.
This is the .zshrc file in HOME.
This is the /etc/zlogin file.
This is the .zlogin file in HOME.
%
```

Notice the order in which the zsh shell executes the files. The zshrc file pair are executed after the zprofile files, but before the zlogin files.

### **4. The shell logout files**

Besides the login and startup files, the zsh shell also has the ability to execute commands in files when you log out from an interactive or login shell session. These files can be in the following locations:

- /etc/zlogout
- \$HOME/.zlogout

{As you probably figured out by now, every user on the system executes the commands in the /etc/zlogout file at logout, while each individual user has a unique \$HOME/.zlogout file. The zsh shell will execute any commands in these files before logging out of the current shell. } its what the name says

{This doesn't include just exiting from an interactive shell. Thus, if you just start another zsh shell from an existing shell session, the zsh shell won't execute the logout files when you exit the shell. However, if you start a login shell, the logout files should execute upon exiting: } confusing

```
% zsh -l
This is the /etc/zshenv file.
This is the .zshenv file in HOME.
This is the /etc/zprofile file.
This is the .zprofile file in HOME.
This is the /etc/zshrc file.
This is the .zshrc file in HOME.
This is the /etc/zlogin file.
This is the .zlogin file in HOME.
% exit
This is the .zlogout file in HOME.
This is the /etc/zlogout file.
%
```

Notice that the shell executes the `.zlogout` file before the global `zlogout` file, which is in the opposite order from the other zsh file types.

There are five startup files that zsh will read commands from:

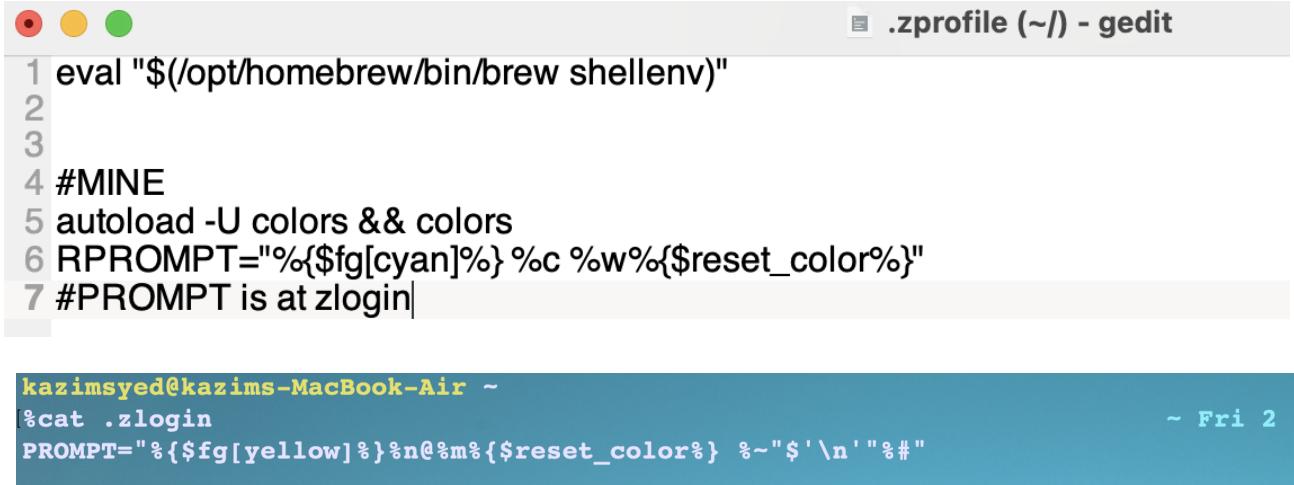
```
$ZDOTDIR/.zshenv
$ZDOTDIR/.zprofile
$ZDOTDIR/.zshrc
$ZDOTDIR/.zlogin
$ZDOTDIR/.zlogout
```

If `ZDOTDIR` is not set, then the value of `HOME` is used; this is the usual case.

`'.zshenv'` is sourced on all invocations of the shell, unless the `-f` option is set. It should contain commands to set the command search path, plus other important environment variables. `'.zshenv'` should not contain commands that produce output or assume the shell is attached to a tty.

`'.zshrc'` is sourced in interactive shells. It should contain commands to set up aliases, functions, options, key bindings, etc.

`'.zlogin'` is sourced in login shells. It should contain commands that should be executed only in login shells. `'.zlogout'` is sourced when login shells exit. `'.zprofile'` is similar to `'.zlogin'`, except that it is sourced before `'.zshrc'`. `'.zprofile'` is meant as an alternative to `'.zlogin'` for ksh fans; the two are not intended to be used together, although this could certainly be done if desired. `'.zlogin'` is not the place for alias definitions, options, environment variable settings, etc.; as a general rule, it should not change the shell environment at all. Rather, it should be used to set the terminal type and run a series of external commands (`fortune`, `msgs`, etc).



```
1 eval "$( /opt/homebrew/bin/brew shellenv )"
2
3
4 #MINE
5 autoload -U colors && colors
6 RPROMPT="%{$fg[cyan]} %c %w%{$reset_color%}"
7 #PROMPT is at zlogin
```

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~
%cat .zlogin
PROMPT="%{$fg[yellow]}%n@%m%{$reset_color%} %~"$'\n'"%#"
```

I think it takes few secs. So its better for zprofile to load my func into memory.

## The zsh environment variables:

fpath	An array of directories specifying the search path for functions
FPATH	The same as fpath, but using a colon as the field separator.
PROMPT	<small>The primary prompt string used by the shell</small>
PROMPT% psvar	An array whose first nine values are referenced by the associated prompt strings.
PSVAR	The same as psvar, but using a colon as the field separator.
PS1 RANDOM	A random number generator for integers between 0 and 32767.
PS2 RPROMPT	<small>The same as PROMPT%</small> A prompt displayed on the right side of the command line interface.
RPS1	The same as RPROMPT.
RPROMPT2	A prompt displayed on the right side of the command line interface when more input is required for a command.
RPS2	The same as RPROMPT2.
reply	Reserved for passing string values between shell scripts and functions.
REPLY	The same as reply, but uses an array value rather than string values.
ZDOTDIR	The directory to search for zsh personal startup files. The default is the \$HOME directory.

## Typeset command

The zsh shell supports the typeset command, which allows you to declare attributes for a variable before using it. Table 23-3 show the options available for the zsh typeset command.

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % typeset -A rating
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % rating=(DeathNote 9 Code_Geass 8 HunterxHunter 9)
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo ${rating[DeathNote]}
9
```

```
echo "Shell started $$"

#creating a numeric array
typeset -a ginti
ginti=(7 8 6 1 1)

for e in ${ginti[*]}
do
echo $e
done
```

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % typeset | grep -e "whoru" -e "special"
array special=( 1 7 8 6 )
whoru
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo $whoru
kaju
```

Figure 1: -h whoru : to create a variable whose value is hidden

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % typeset -r apple=faraaz
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % typeset | grep -e apple
SSH_AUTH_SOCK=/private/tmp/com.apple.launchd.rK5WznfSsK/Listeners
VENDOR=apple
__CFBundleIdentifier=com.apple.Terminal
readonly apple=faraaz
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % apple=mango
zsh: read-only variable: apple
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % typeset | grep -e apple
SSH_AUTH_SOCK=/private/tmp/com.apple.launchd.rK5WznfSsK/Listeners
VENDOR=apple
__CFBundleIdentifier=com.apple.Terminal
readonly apple=faraaz
```

Figure 2: using readonly variables

## The typeset Command Parameters

Parameter	Description
-a	Create a numerical array variable.
-A	Create an associative array variable.
-E	Create a double-precision floating-point variable and display using scientific notation.
-f	Define a function name instead of a variable.
-F	Create a double-precision floating-point variable and display using fixed-point decimal notation.
-h	Create a hidden special variable.
-H	Don't display the value of the variable.
-i	Create an integer data type variable.
-l	Convert the variable value to lower case.
-L	Left-justify by removing leading blanks from a variable.
-r	Make the specified variables read-only.
-R	Right-justify by adding blanks on the left.
-t	Tag the specified variables.
-u	Convert the variable value to upper case.
-U	Keep only the first occurrence for each duplicated value in a numerical array.
-x	Mark the specified variable for automatic export.
-Z	Right-justify using leading zeroes.

## Built-in commands

The zsh shell is unique in that it allows you to expand the built-in commands available in the shell.

The zsh core built-in commands:



## Index:

## Filename Generation

Commands	Working
ls *.[co]	Files ending with c or o
ls foo.?	Files ending with single letter
ls *.[^c]	Files not ending with c

Also, if the EXTENDEDGLOB option is set, some new features are activated. For example, the ^ character negates the pattern following it:

```
% setopt extendedglob
```

Commands	Working
ls -d ^.*c	Not ending with c
ls -d ^*.*	Not having an extension
ls -d ^*.py	No python files are desired

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air shell_script % ls *[0-9][0-9][0-9]
temp275
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air shell_script % ls *[200-300]
zsh: no matches found: *[200-300]
```

An expression of the form <x-y> matches a range of integers:

Commands	Working
ls run<200-300>	Run235
ls run<-200>	run2

## Grouping

*(py sh)	
----------	--

It is possible to exclude certain files from the patterns using the~character. A pattern of the form\*.c~bar.c lists all files matching\*.c, except for the file`bar.c'.

```
% ls *.c
foo.c      foob.c      bar.c
% ls *.c~bar.c
foo.c      foob.c
% ls *.c~f*
bar.c
```

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air Desktop % ls -Fd *(\/)
Node/          shell_script/
```

One can add a number of *qualifiers* to the end of any of these patterns, to restrict matches to certain file types. A qualified pattern is of the form.

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air Desktop % ls -F *(@)
Documents Part2@
```

Commands	Working
Ls -Fd *(\/)	To find all directories. Here -d is used, so it doesn't expand.
Ls -F *(@)	Symbolic Link

Note that \*(x) and \*(\*) both match executables. \*(X) matches files executable by others, as opposed to \*(x), which matches files executable by the owner. \*(R) and \*(r) match readable files; \*(W) and \*(w), which checks for writable files. \*(W) is especially important, since it checks for world-writable files:

Commands	Working
Ls -F *(x) or Ls -F *(*)	Both match executables
Ls -F *(X)	This match files executable by owner
Ls -F *(R) or Ls -F(r)	readables
Similaryly *(w)	writable

**\*(U)** matches all files owned by you. To search for all files not owned by you, use **\*(^U)**:

```
% l -l *(^U)
-rw----- 1 subbarao      29 May 23 18:13 sub
```

## Startup Files

There are 5 startup files that zsh will read commands from:

```
$ZDOTDIR/.zshenv  
$ZDOTDIR/.zprofile  
$ZDOTDIR/.zshrc  
$ZDOTDIR/.zlogin  
$ZDOTDIR/.zlogout
```

skip

```

==> Next steps:
- Run these two commands in your terminal to add Homebrew to your PATH:
  echo 'eval "$( /opt/homebrew/bin/brew shellenv )"' >> /Users/kazimsyed/.zprofile
  eval "$( /opt/homebrew/bin/brew shellenv )"
- Run brew help to get started
- Further documentation:
  https://docs.brew.sh

```

## Shell functions

```

% randline () {
>     integer z=$(wc -l <$1)
>     sed -n ${[RANDOM % z + 1]}p $1
> }
% randline /etc/motd

```

Here's another one:

```

% cx () { chmod +x $* }
% ls -l foo bar
-rw-r--r-- 1 pfalstad      29 May 24 04:38 bar
-rw-r--r-- 1 pfalstad      29 May 24 04:38 foo
% cx foo bar
% ls -l foo bar
-rwxr-xr-x 1 pfalstad      29 May 24 04:38 bar
-rwxr-xr-x 1 pfalstad      29 May 24 04:38 foo

```

Note that this could also have been implemented as an alias:

```

% chmod 644 foo bar
% alias cx='chmod +x'
% cx foo bar
% ls -l foo bar
-rwxr-xr-x 1 pfalstad      29 May 24 04:38 bar
-rwxr-xr-x 1 pfalstad      29 May 24 04:38 foo

```

```

kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % zsh -l
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % fpath[4]=/tmp/funs
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % ls /tmp/funs
shoot      trash_shoot
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % autoload shoot
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % mktemp testing.XX
testing.gr
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % shoot tes*
shell started at 2721
trash exist
successfully send testing.gr.Sep-2022-02-08.R0 file to trash_shoot
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % ls
1.sh          2378.12        4.sh          6.sh          data2          shoot          trash_shoot
2.sh          3.sh           5.sh          data1          output         template
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % ls trash_shoot; sort -r
data21.Sep-2022-01-18.jq      regex_check.Sep-2022-00-41.U8  testing.gr.Sep-2022-02-08.R0

```

Figure 3: How to use functions and **autoload cmd**

```
1 #!/bin/bash
2
3
4
5 function shoot
6 {
7 echo "shell startedd at $$"
8 if [ -d "trash_shoot" ]
9 then
10   echo "trash exist"
11 else
12   `mkdir trash_shoot`
13   echo "empty trash_shoot successfully created"
14 fi
15
16 for e in $@
17 do
18   name="$e.`date +%h-%Y-%H-%M`"
19   name=`mktemp ${name}.XX`
20   `mv $e $name`
21   `mv $name ./trash_shoot`
22   success=$?
23   if [[ success -eq 0 ]]
24     then
25       echo successfully send $name file to trash_shoot
26   fi
27 done
28
29 }
30
31 shoot $@
32
```

Another way:

```
% echo $fpath  
/usr/local/share/zsh/site-functions  
/usr/share/zsh/4.2.5/functions/Completion  
/usr/share/zsh/4.2.5/functions/Completion/AIX  
/usr/share/zsh/4.2.5/functions/Completion/BSD
```

```
% cat dbl  
#!/bin/zsh  
# a function to double a value  
dbl() {  
    value=$(( $1 * 2 ))  
    return $value  
}  
% cp dbl /usr/local/share/zsh/site-functions  
%
```

*Figure 4: this will make permanent by copying it to a directory.*

## Directory stacks:

```
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % pushd  
~ ~/Desktop/shell_script/scripts  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % ls  
Applications Downloads Music file.txt.save  
Desktop Library Pictures mydesktop  
Documents Movies Public  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % cd Downloads  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air Downloads % cd ..  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % cd Documents  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air Documents % popd  
~/Desktop/shell_script/scripts  
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts %
```

Figure 5: Working of pushd and popd

```
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % cd Documents  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air Documents % dirs -v  
0 ~/Documents  
1 ~/Desktop/shell_script/scripts  
2 ~/Downloads/E  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air Documents % pushd ~  
~ ~/Documents ~/Desktop/shell_script/scripts ~/Downloads/E  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % dirs -v  
0 ~  
1 ~/Documents  
2 ~/Desktop/shell_script/scripts  
3 ~/Downloads/E  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % cd +3  
~/Downloads/E  
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air E % dirs -v  
0 ~/Downloads/E  
1 ~/Documents  
2 ~/Desktop/shell_script/scripts
```

Figure 6: instead of cd, we can use pushd, which will push the pwd and then cd to !:1

```
~> DIRSTACKSIZE=8
~> setopt autopushd pushdminus pushdsilent pushdtohome
~> alias dh='dirs -v'
~> cd /tmp
```

pushdminus not necessary.

Pushdsilent will not show the directory stack.

Autopushd will make cd to behave like pushd.

Directory stack works like this.

Present	Modern	Medieval	Older	Oldest
0	1	2	3	4

present is not included by pushd, while the rest are.

Use **dirs -v** cmd

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air E % cd ~
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % setopt autopushd
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % cd Deskt*/sh*/sc*
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % cd -
~
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % cd Documents
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air Documents % cd ../Downloads/E
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air E % dirs -v
0      ~/Downloads/E
1      ~/Documents
2      ~
3      ~/Desktop/shell_script/scripts
4      ~
5      ~/Documents
6      ~/Desktop/shell_script/scripts
```

Figure 7: setopt autopushd

## Command substitution

Command substitution in zsh can take two forms. In the traditional form, a command enclosed in backquotes (`...`) is replaced on the command line with its output. This is the form used by the older shells. Newer shells (like zsh) also provide another form, \${(...)}. This form is much easier to nest.

Old shell	` ... `	New shell	\$(...)
<code>echo Todays Date:`date +%d-%m-%y`</code>		<code>echo Todays Date:\${(date +%d-%m-%y)}</code>	

--

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air Downloads % print -l kazim syed
kazim
syed
```

Figure 8: `print -l` : prints its arguments one per line.

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % grep -e nobody -e daemon data1
nobody
daemon
```

Figure 9: Use of `grep -e` command for search

```
% alias fm='finger -m'
% fm root
Login name: root
Directory: /
On since May 19 10:41:15 on console
No unread mail
No Plan.

In real life: Operator
Shell: /bin/csh
3 days 5 hours Idle Time
```

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % finger
Login      Name          TTY  Idle  Login   Time   Office   Phone
kazimsyed kazim syed    *con   3d   Fri    14:18
kazimsyed kazim syed    s00     Mon   14:20
```

Table 1: use of remote command to learn about Remote users



```
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % ls -F *(R)
1.sh*           data1          template
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % ls -F *(r)
1.sh*   data1
[kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % ls -l
total 24
-rwxr--r--@ 1 kazimsyed  staff  529 Aug 28 17:20 1.sh
-rw-r--r--  1 kazimsyed  staff  297 Aug 28 15:09 data1
----r--r--  1 kazimsyed  staff   36 Aug 28 16:09 template
```

*Figure 10: \*(r) readable by me*

```
% rm () { mv $* /tmp/wastebasket }
% rm foo.dvi
% ls /tmp/wastebasket
foo.dvi
```

*Figure 11: Making rm safe by using a bit bucket*

--

## History:

typing fc will execute an editor on this command, allowing you to fix it. (The default editor is vi, by the way, not ed).

## Binding

```
Last login: Fri Sep  2 03:29:19 on ttys000
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % bindkey -s '^' 'uptime'
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~ % uptime
 3:31 up 13:02, 2 users, load averages: 1.26 1.31 1.34
```

*Figure 12: creating shortcuts, I have used just caret instead of caret and T.*

The -s flag to bindkey specifies that you are binding the key to a string, not a command. Thus bindkey -s '^T' 'uptime\n' lets you VMS lovers get the load average whenever you press ^T.

Another use of the editor is to edit the value of variables. For example, an easy way to change your path is to use the vared command:

```
% vared PATH
> /u/pfalstad/scr:/u/pfalstad/bin/sun4:/u/maruchck/scr:/u/subbarao/bin:/u/maruc
hck/bin:/u/subbarao/scripts:/usr/princeton/bin:/usr/ucb:/usr/bin:/bin:/usr/host
s:/usr/princeton/bin/X11:./usr/lang:./usr/etc:./etc
```

You can now edit the path. When you press return, the contents of the edit buffer will be assigned to PATH.

*Figure 13: Be cautious*

## Parameter substitution

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % x=kazim
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo $x:u
KAZIM
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo $x:u:l
kazim
```

## Shell parameter

In general, parameters with names in all lowercase are arrays; assignments to them take the form:

```
name=(elem ...)
```

Parameters with names in all uppercase are strings. If there is both an array and a string version of the same parameter, the string version is a colon-separated list, like PATH.

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo $path
/opt/homebrew/bin /opt/homebrew/sbin /usr/local/bin /usr/bin /bin /usr/sbin /sbin
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo ${path[1]}
/opt/homebrew/bin
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo ${path[2]}
/opt/homebrew/sbin
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo ${path[3]}
/usr/local/bin
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo ${path[4]}
/usr/bin
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air scripts % echo ${path[*]}
/opt/homebrew/bin /opt/homebrew/sbin /usr/local/bin /usr/bin /bin /usr/sbin /sbin
```

## Prompting

Parameter	working	about
%m	hostname	
%#	Stands for # or %	Depending on the shell whether its running a root user or not
%h	No of current history events	A number
%t	Clock	12:00am/pm format
%w	Day and Date	
%n	Name of the user	
%~	pwd(relative path)	
%c	Absolute path	

The POSTEDIT parameter is printed whenever the editor exits. This can be useful for termcap tricks. To highlight the prompt and command line while leaving command output unhighlighted, try this:

```
% POSTEDIT=`echotc se`  
% PROMPT=' %S%% '
```

Use case:

```
% !!  
PROMPT="%w %t"$'\n'"%n@%m %~"$'\n'"%# "  
Fri 2 4:01AM  
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~/Desktop  
%
```

PROMPT="%w %t"\$'\n'"%n@%m %~"\$'\n'"%# "

link:

Use \$'\n'

For example,

```
PROMPT="firstline"$'\n'"secondline "
```

or

```
NEWLINE=$'\n'  
PROMPT="firstline${NEWLINE}secondline "
```

Adding color:

```
This is red text
Fri 2 4:10AM
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~/Desktop
[% echo -e "\033[5;32m This is red text \033[0m"

This is red text
Fri 2 4:11AM
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~/Desktop
[% echo -e "\033[6;35m This is red text \033[0m"

This is red text
Fri 2 4:11AM
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~/Desktop
[% echo -e "\033[7;35m This is red text \033[0m"

This is red text
```

3: tells foreground e.g 35 tells magenta text

4: tells background

just 7: reverse foreground and background colors, blink fast, underline, bold,.. extra.

----

```
PS1="%{$fg[red]}%n%{$reset_color}@%{$fg[blue]}%m %{$fg[yellow]}%(5~|%-1~/.../|3~|%4~) %{$reset_color}%% "
```

```
PROMPT="$%{$fg[cyan]}%w %t%{$reset_color}%"'\n'"%{$fg[yellow]}%n@m%{$reset_color} %~"$'\n'"%# "
.....
```

```
RPROMPT="%{$fg[cyan]} %c %w%{$reset_color}"
PROMPT="%{$fg[yellow]}%n@m%{$reset_color} %~"$'\n'"%#"
● ○ ● shell_script -- zsh -- 80x24
```

```
kazimsyed@kazims-MacBook-Air ~/Desktop/shell_script
% shell_script Fri 2
```

## The ANSI Color Control Codes

Code	Description
0	Black
1	Red
2	Green
3	Yellow
4	Blue
5	Magenta
6	Cyan
7	White

## The ANSI SGR Effect Control Codes

Code	Description
0	Reset to normal mode.
1	Set to bold intensity.
2	Set to faint intensity.
3	Use italic font.
4	Use single underline.
5	Use slow blink.
6	Use fast blink.
7	Reverse foreground/background colors.
8	Set foreground color to background color (invisible text).

```
-e This is red text
```

## Login / Logout watching

You can specify login or logout events to monitor by setting the `watch` variable. Normally, this is done by specifying a list of usernames.

```
% watch=( pfalstad subbarao sukthnkr egsirer )
```

The `log` command reports all people logged in that you are watching for.

```
% log  
pfalstad has logged on p0 from mickey.  
pfalstad has logged on p5 from mickey.
```

If you specify hostnames with an `@` prepended, the shell will watch for all users logging in from the specified host.

```
% watch=( @mickey @phoenix )  
% log  
djthongs has logged on q2 from phoenix.  
pfalstad has logged on p0 from mickey.
```

If you have a `~/.friends` file in your home directory, a convenient way to make zsh watch for all your friends is to do this:

```
% watch=( $(< ~/.friends) )  
% echo $watch  
subbarao maruchck root sukthnkr ...
```

If `watch` is set to `all`, then all users logging in or out will be reported.

