

Welcome to Bash Shell Scripts.

What you will learn

At the core of the lesson

You will learn how to:

- Describe common tasks that are accomplished through shell scripts
- Describe basic commands that are frequently included in shell scripts
- Describe basic logical control statements that are frequently included in shell scripts
- Run a shell script



In this module, you will learn how to:

- Describe common tasks that are accomplished through shell scripts
- Describe basic commands that are frequently included in shell scripts
- Describe basic logical control statements that are frequently included in shell scripts
- Run a shell script

What is a script?

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This section defines a script and covers common tasks that you can accomplish by using shell scripts.

What are scripts?

- Scripts are text files of commands and related data.
- When the text file is processed, the commands are run.
- Scripts can be set as scheduled tasks by using cron.
- Automation allows scripts to run more quickly than if they are run manually.
- Scripts are consistent due to automation removing the potential for manual errors.

Common script tasks:

- Creating backup jobs
- Archiving log files
- Configuring systems and services
- Simplifying repetitive task
- Automating tasks

Example script

An example backup script

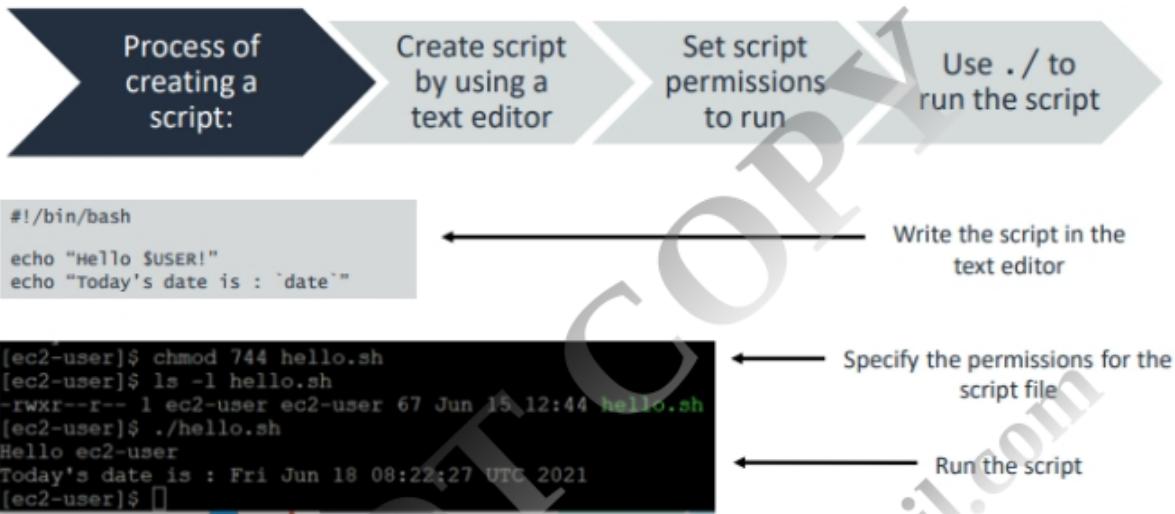
```
#!/bin/bash
#Script to backup the home directory
tar -cf backup-home.tar /home/ec2-user
echo "backup job complete at `date`"
```

Script results

```
[ec2-user]$ ./backup.sh
tar: Removing leading '/' from member names
tar: /home/ec2-user/backup-home.tar: file is the archive; not dumped
"backup job complete at Fri Jun 18 08:13:30 UTC 2021"
[ec2-user]$ ls
backup-home.tar  displayName.sh  guess.sh  scripts  whilebreak
```

This script creates a tar archive with the content of the folder /home/ec2-user.

Shell scripts



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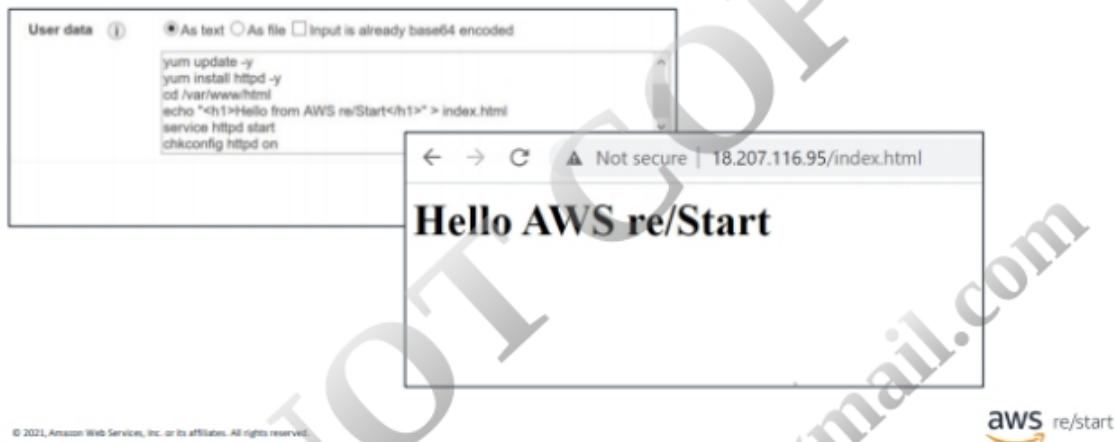


The process of creating a script follows these steps:

1. Create the script using a text editor.
2. Set the script permissions to run.
3. Use ./ to run the script.

Amazon EC2 user data script

- Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) is a virtual compute service.
- Shell scripts can run at creation time to install software on an EC2 instance.



This screen capture is an example of a user shell script that runs when the EC2 instance is created.

An HTTP web server is installed and run.

A basic HTML page is created.

The web server can be accessed via the public IP address of the EC2 instance.

Basic scripting syntax

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This section introduces basic commands that are frequently included in shell scripts.

The # character

- Bash ignores lines that are preceded with #.
- The # character is used to define comments or notes to the user that might provide instructions or options.

```
[ec2-user]$ cat script.sh
#This is a comment
#echo "this line will be ignored"
echo "This line will print a message"
[ec2-user]$ ./script.sh
This line will print a message
[ec2-user]$ 
```

Only the second echo command runs and displays a message.

#!/bin/bash and #comments

- #! is referred to as a *shebang*.
- The first line defines the interpreter to use (gives the path and name of the interpreter).
- Scripts must begin with the directive for which shell will run them.
- The location and shell can be different.
- Each shell has its own syntax, which tells the system what syntax to expect.
 - Example: #!/bin/bash
- Use # to define comments, including the purpose of the script, author information, special directives for the script, examples, and others.

```
[ec2-user]$ cat hello.sh
#!/bin/bash

echo "Hello `whoami`"
echo "Today's date is : `date`"
[ec2-user]$
```

If the first line does not define the interpreter, the operating system will find one; usually the one defined for the current shell.

Script documentation

- Some administrators create a script template, which contains all the relevant information and sections.
- The template might include the following:
 - Title
 - Purpose
 - Author's name and contact information
 - Special instructions or examples

```
#!/bin/bash
#.....
#Author : Jane Doe
# Date : 06/15/2021
#Description :Here is how you can document a script
#
#Usage :
# ./myScript.sh param1 [param2]
#param1:
#param2:
#.....
#Version: 2.0.1
#Declared variables
#
#Script body
```

There is no exact format definition that scripts should follow.

Declare a Bash variable

- Declare (create) your own variables.
- Use these custom variables in scripts.

```
[ec2-user]$ cat displayName.sh
#!/bin/bash
NAME="Mary Major"
echo $NAME
[ec2-user]$ ./displayName.sh
Mary Major
[ec2-user]$
```

In the example, a variable NAME has been created.

Useful commands

Command	Description
echo	Displays information on the console
read	Reads a user input
subStr	Gets the substring of a string
+	Adds two numbers or combine strings
file	Opens a file
mkdir	Creates a directory
cp	Copies files
mv	Moves or renames files
chmod	Sets permissions on files
rm	Deletes files, folders, etc.
ls	Lists directories

This table lists the most useful commands that you can use in a script.

You can use all the shell commands that you saw earlier in the course, such as **grep**, **touch**, and **redirectors** (**>**, **>>**, **<**, **<<**).

You can also use the shell script to create programs using statements such as if, else if, for, while, case, and create functions using the **function** keyword.

Demonstration: Declaring a Variable in a Script



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Overview

- Some variables are configured by default, but you can also declare your own variables. This functionality is often used when you write and run scripts. In this activity, you write a simple script to declare variables and use those variables in a practical use case.
- In this demonstration, a simple Bash script is created to demonstrate storing a user's name.

1. For this demonstration, create a file and enter the following text:

```
#!/bin/bash
echo "what is your name?"
read name
echo "Hello $name"
```
2. As soon as you finish, save the file and run the following command (for this example, the file is named *getname.sh*):
`chmod +x getname.sh`
3. Run the script by entering the following (for this example, the file is named *getname.sh*):
`./getname.sh`

Operators

The = is used to assign the variable to a string.

```
#!/bin/bash  
sum=$($1 + $2)  
echo $1 + $2 equals $sum
```

The \$ is used to evaluate a variable.

The + is used as a math operator.

```
[ec2-user]$ vi sum.sh  
[ec2-user]$ ./sum.sh 4 5  
4 + 5 equals 9  
[ec2-user]$
```

\$1 and \$2 are the parameters passed to the scripts.

You can also use the + operator to concatenate string.

Expressions

Expressions are ways to answer questions about what occurs when a script or program runs.

Summary expression



```
#!/bin/bash  
sum=$(( $1 + $2 ))  
echo $1 + $2 equals $sum
```

Expressions are ways to answer questions about what occurs when a script or program runs. Such questions might include the following:

- Who is running the script?
- What time is it?

The answer is usually assigned to a variable for reference later in the script. This example asks, “What is the sum of the two numbers that the user entered when they ran the script?”

The value is then stored in the **sum** variable.

Conditional statements

Conditional statements allow for different courses of action for a script depending on the success or failure of a test.

In the following script, the `rm` command is run only if the `cp` command successfully completes.

```
#!/bin/bash
#Copy file1 to /tmp
#Delete file1 if the copy was
#successful

if [ cp file1 /tmp ];
then
    rm file1
fi
```

file1 does not exist anymore.

```
[ec2-user]$ ls
delete.sh displayName.sh error.log example.txt
Desktop Documents example.sh file1
[ec2-user]$ ./delete.sh
[ec2-user]$ ls
delete.sh displayName.sh error.log example.txt
example.sh hello.sh
[ec2-user]$ ls /tmp
file1
[ec2-user]$
```

Conditional actions are dependent on outcomes.

Logical control statements

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The section focuses on basic logical control statements that are frequently included in shell scripts, such as if, if-else, if-elif-else, and test.

The if statement

- If the first command succeeds with an exit code of 0 (success), then the subsequent command runs.
- This is the simplest conditional statement.
- An **if** statement must end with the **fi** keyword.

```
#!/bin/bash
#Copy file1 to /tmp
#Delete file1 if the copy was
successful

if [ cp file1 /tmp ];
then
    rm file1
fi
```

An if statement is written as follows:

```
if <condition>
then
<command>
fi
```

Or inline: if <condition>; then <command> fi

The semicolon (;) is not mandatory if not writing inline.

Indentation is used for better readability but is not required.

The if - else statement

- Defines two courses of action:
 - If the condition is true (**then**)
 - If the condition is false (**else**)

else
statement

```
#!/bin/bash
#Copy file1 to /tmp
#Delete file1 if the copy was
successful

if [ cp file1 /tmp ];
then
    rm file1
else
    echo "No such file."
fi
```

The **else** statement is invoked because **file1** does not exist.



```
[ec2-user]$ ./delete.sh
cp: cannot stat 'file1': No such file or directory
No such file.
[ec2-user]$
```

An if-else statement is written as follows:

```
if <condition>
then
<command>
else
<other command>
fi
```

The if - elif - else statement

- Defines three courses of action:
 - If the condition is true (**then**)
 - Else if the condition is false but another condition is true (**then**)
 - If the second condition is false (**else**)

```
#!/bin/bash
#Compares $1 and $2

if [ $1 -gt $2 ];
then
    echo "the first number is greater than the second number"
elif [ $1 -lt $2 ];
then
    echo "the second number is greater than the first number"
else
    echo "the two numbers are equal"
fi
```

The example compares two numbers passed as parameters to the script:

- **-gt** means greater than
- **-lt** means lower than

An if-elif-else statement is written as follows:

```
if <condition>
then
<command>
elif <other condition>
then
<other command>
else
<default command>
fi
```

- You can embed if-elif-else statements.
- You can access all local objects of its immediately enclosing function and also of any function or functions that enclose that function.
- Nesting is theoretically possible to unlimited depth.

The **test** command

- Checks file types and compare values
- Conditions are set, and then the test *exits* with a **0** for true and a **1** for false.
- Syntax: **test <EXPRESSION>**

Test whether this comparison is true or false.

```
#!/bin/bash  
#Compares two values  
test 100 -lt 99 && echo "Yes" || echo "No"
```

The comparison is false.

```
[ec2-user]$ ./compare.sh  
No  
[ec2-user]$
```

You use the **test** command to compare values.

Integer comparison operators

Comparison operators compare two variables or quantities.

- `-eq` is equal to: `if ["$a" -eq "$b"]`
- `-ne` is not equal to: `if ["$a" -ne "$b"]`
- `-gt` is greater than: `if ["$a" -gt "$b"]`
- `-ge` is greater than or equal to: `if ["$a" -ge "$b"]`
- `-lt` is less than: `if ["$a" -lt "$b"]`
- `-le` is less than or equal to: `if ["$a" -le "$b"]`
- `<` is less than (within double parentheses): `(("$a" < "$b"))`
- `<=` is less than or equal to (within double parentheses): `(("$a" <= "$b"))`
- `>` is greater than (within double parentheses): `(("$a" > "$b"))`
- `>=` is greater than or equal to (within double parentheses): `(("$a" >= "$b"))`

In these examples, you can see that brackets or double parentheses surround the condition.

- `((` are for numerical comparison:
 - `(($a < $b))` is equivalent to `[$a -lt $b]`
- You will also see some conditions using double brackets:
 - `if [[$a -lt $b]]`
 - This is basically a notation equivalent to a simple bracket with enhanced features, but this goes beyond this course.
- Note also that `"` are not mandatory: `if ["$a" -lt "$b"]` is equivalent to `if [$a -lt $b]`

Integer comparison operators

Comparison operators compare two variables or quantities.

The following tests are equivalent:

```
if [ "$1" -gt "$2" ];  
then  
    echo "..."  
fi
```

```
if (( "$1">>"$2" ))  
then  
    echo "..."  
fi
```

```
if [[ $1 -gt $2 ]]  
then  
    echo "..."  
fi
```

```
if [ $1 -gt $2 ]  
then  
    echo "..."  
fi
```

```
if (( $1>$2 ));  
then  
    echo "..."  
fi
```

- “ are not mandatory: `if ["$a" -lt "$b"]` is equivalent to `if [$a -lt $b]`
- The semicolon (`:`) is mandatory only if the test is written inline: `if [$a -lt $b]; then`
...
...

String comparison operations

- `=` or `==` is equal to
 - `if ["$a" = "$b"]`
 - `if ["$a" == "$b"]`
- `!=` is not equal to
 - `if ["$a" != "$b"]`
 - This operator uses pattern matching within a `[[...]]` construct.
- `<` is less than, in ASCII alphabetical order
 - `if [[$a < $b]]`
 - `if ["$a" \< "$b"]`
 - Note that the `<` must be escaped in a `[]` construct
- `>` is greater than, in ASCII alphabetical order
 - `if [[$a > $b]]`
 - `if ["$a" \> "$b"]`
 - Note that the `>` must be escaped in a `[]` construct.
- `-z` string is null (that is, it has zero length)
- `-n` string is not `null`

Familiarize yourself with these string comparison operations.

String comparison operations example

```
#!/bin/bash
#Compares letters $1 and $2

if ["$1" == "$2"];
then
    echo "letters are the same"
elif [ $1 < $2 ];
then
    echo "the first letter is before the second letter"
else
    echo "the second letter is before the first letter"
```

```
[ec2-user]$ ./letters.sh a g
the first letters is before the second letter
[ec2-user]$ ./letters.sh a a
letters are the same
[ec2-user]$
```

In the previous slide, \$a and \$b were used for generic comparisons.

Here you use \$1 and \$2 to match the first and second parameters passed to the script at runtime: **a** and **g**.

Loop statements

- Sections of a script can be configured to repeat themselves.
- The loop can end:
 - After a specific number of repeats (**for** statement)
 - Or until a condition is met (**until** statement)
 - Or while a condition is true (**while** statement)
- Looping extends the power and complexity of scripts.

Loops provide you the ability to repeat sections of a script.

Loops can end:

- After a specific number of repeats (**for** statement)
- Until a condition is met (**until** statement)
- While a condition is true (**while** statement)

The for statement

- Loops the command a specified number of times
- Bracketed by do and done

```
#!/bin/bash
#The for loop

for x in 1 2 3 4 5 a b c d
do
    echo "the value is $x"
done
```

```
[ec2-user]$ ./forloop.sh
the value is 1
the value is 2
the value is 3
the value is 4
the value is 5
the value is a
the value is b
the value is c
the value is d
[ec2-user]$ ]
```

To loop a command a specific number of times, use the for statement.

The until statement

- Similar to the `while` statement
- Runs code until a condition becomes true
- Bracketed by `until` and `done`

```
#!/bin/bash
#The until loop

counter=1
until [ $counter -gt 10 ];
do
    echo $counter
    ((counter++))
done
echo "loop exited"
echo "counter equals $counter"
```

```
[ec2-user]$ ./untilloop.sh
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
loop exited
counter equals 11
[ec2-user]$
```

The `until` loop works the same way as the `while` loop.

In the example, the loop loops until the counter reaches 10 and then exits.

The while statement

- Continues running the script as long as the specified condition is true
- Bracketed by while and done

```
#!/bin/bash
#The while loop

counter=1
while [ $counter -le 10 ];
do
    echo $counter
    ((counter++))
    if [ counter == $1 ];
    then
        break
    fi
done
echo "loop exited"
echo "counter equals $counter"
```



A terminal window titled '[ec2-user]\$' displays the output of a bash script named 'whileloop.sh'. The script counts from 1 to 10, then exits when the counter reaches 11. The output is:

```
[ec2-user]$ ./whileloop.sh
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
loop exited
counter equals 11
[ec2-user]$
```

The while loop runs as long as the counter is lower or equal to 10:

- It displays the value of the counter.
- It increments the counter by 1 (counter++ means counter = counter+1).
- When the counter reaches 11, the loop exits.

Loop control statements

- Used with loops to better manage their conditions:
 - break:** Stop running the entire loop.
 - continue:** If a condition is met, break out of loop.
The loops keeps running
- Example: If a specified value is discovered, then stop looping and continue through the script.
- Used in nested loops to continue to the next part of loop.

```
[ec2-user]$ ./whilebreakloop.sh 5
1
2
3
4
loop exited
counter equals 5
[ec2-user]$ []
```

```
#!/bin/bash
#The break statement

counter=1
while [ $counter -le 10 ];
do
    echo $counter
    ((counter++))
    if [ $counter == $1 ];
    then
        break
    fi
done
echo "loop exited"
echo "counter equals $counter"
```

In this example, the while loop exits before the condition of the loop is met if the counter reaches the value passed as a parameter.

- The parameter (\$1) is 5.
- The **if** condition is met when counter == 5.
- The **break** keyword is reached.
- The loop exits.

Loop control statements

```
#!/bin/bash
#The continue statement

counter=1
while [ $counter -le 10 ];
do
    echo $counter
    ((counter++))
    if [ $counter == $1 ];
    then
        echo "condition met"
        continue
        echo "after continue"
    fi
    echo "loop keeps going"
done
echo "loop exited"
echo "counter equals $counter"
```

```
[ec2-user]$ ./whilecontinueloop.sh 5
1
loop keeps going
2
loop keeps going
3
loop keeps going
4
if condition met
5
loop keeps going
6
loop keeps going
7
loop keeps going
8
loop keeps going
9
loop keeps going
10
loop keeps going
loop exited
counter equals 11
[ec2-user]$
```

The **continue** keyword exits the if statement (**after continue** is not displayed), but the loop keeps going until the loop condition is met.

- The parameter is 5.
- The if condition is met when counter == 5.
- The **continue** keyword is reached.
- The if statement exits.
- The loop keeps running until **counter == 10** (original while condition).

The true and false commands

- **true** and **false** commands are used with loops to manage their conditions.
- These commands return predetermined exit status (either a status of **true** or a status of **false**).
- A *Boolean expression* is used as an expression that produces a value when it is evaluated to be true or false.
- You can create individual conditions.

```
#!/bin/bash
#The infinity loop
while true
DO
    echo "loops forever"
done
```

Evaluated as true or
false

```
#!/bin/bash
#The while loop
#The break statement
counter=1
while [ $counter -le 10 ];
do
    echo $counter
    ((counter++))
done
```

Return will be explained when working on functions.

An example of a **while true** is as follows:

```
#!/bin/bash

while true
Do
    echo "Enter a value"
    read val
    if [ $val -eq 5 ]
        break
    fi
    echo "wrong guess!"
done
Echo "good guess!"
```

It loops forever and asks the user to enter a value. If the user enters the right value (5), it exits the loop using a **break** statement.

The exit command

- Causes script to stop running and exit to the shell if the previous portion fails
- Useful in testing
- Can return code status. Each code can be associated to a specific error
- For example:
 - exit 0: the program has completed without any error
 - exit 1: the program has an error
 - exit n: the program has a specific error
- \$? is a command to get the processing status of the last command that ran

```
#!/bin/bash

touch myfile.txt
if [ $? -eq 0];
then
    echo "file created"
    exit 0
else
do
    echo "error when creating the file"
    exit 1
```

This script creates a file using the touch command.

It tests the code status of the touch command and exits accordingly.

Command substitution (review)

- Commands can be placed in the syntax of other commands.
- Commands are surrounded by backticks (`).
- Commands can be useful in scripts.

```
#!/bin/bash
echo "Hello $USER!"
echo "Today's date is : `date`"
```

Command substitution

Command substitutions are useful in scripts.

Arguments

- Arguments are values that you want the script to act on.
- Arguments are passed to the script by including them in a script invocation command separated by spaces.
- For example, \$1 is the first argument, and \$2 is the second argument.

```
#!/bin/bash  
sum=$(( $1 + $2 ))  
echo $sum
```

```
[ec2-user]$ ./math.sh 3 8  
11  
[ec2-user]$
```

In this example, the arguments input by the user are 3 and 8.

Therefore, \$1 is equal to 3 and \$2 is equal to 8.

The read command

Reads user input into a script

Sets input as a variable

Sets the user input as a variable

Calls the variable and uses it as output

```
#!/bin/bash  
  
echo " Hello. what is your name ? "  
read VARNAME  
echo " Glad to meet you, $VARNAME"
```

```
[ec2-user]$ ./welcome.sh  
Hello. What is your name ?  
joe  
Glad to meet you, joe  
[ec2-user]$
```

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Read incorporates the user's input as a variable into a script.

Run a shell script

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In this section, you run a shell script.

Script permissions (review)

- Script files must have run permissions.
- `chmod 744 hello.sh` would permit the user to run the script but not a group or other users (using absolute mode).
- `chmod u+x hello.sh` would permit the user to run the script but not a group or other users (using symbolic mode).

```
[ec2-user]$ ls -al hello.sh
-rwxr-xr-x 1 ec2-user ec2-user 67 Jun 15 12:44 hello.sh
[ec2-user]$ chmod 744 hello.sh
[ec2-user]$ ls -al hello.sh
-rwxr--r-- 1 ec2-user ec2-user 67 Jun 15 12:44 hello.sh
[ec2-user]$ chmod u-w hello.sh
[ec2-user]$ ls -al hello.sh
-rwxr--r-- 1 ec2-user ec2-user 67 Jun 15 12:44 hello.sh
[ec2-user]$ [ ]
```

`chmod 744` is:

- Read (r) for the owner, the group of the owner, and others
- Write (w) for the owner only
- Execute (x) for the owner only
- Hence `rwxr--r--`

The second command, `chmod u-w`, removes the write right for the owner:

`rwxr--r--` becomes `r-xr--r--`

Running a script in Bash

- Bash searches for executables by using the \$PATH variable. Bash assumes that any runnable command or script will be along that path.
- If the script is not along the path, then precede the executable name with ./
- Be sure to update the settings to persist beyond the current session.
- Review: A user's profile is loaded from the files that are stored in the user's home directory:
 - /home/username/.bashrc
 - /home/username/.bash_history
 - /home/username/.bash_profile
- For example, in your home directory, you wrote a script called myscript.sh and you want to run it:
 - myscript.sh fails because Bash does not check your home directory for executables.
 - ./myscript.sh succeeds.

Review this information so that when you run a script in Bash you don't have any issues.

Run a script and ./ (review)

- Bash checks for executables along \$PATH, which does not (and should not) include home directories.
- To run a script that is not stored on \$PATH, use ./ before the script.
- Example: ./hello.sh
 - This example assumes that the script is in the current directory.
 - Otherwise, you must provide the absolute or relative path, or maybe an alias (for example, \$HOME).
 - cron jobs always need the full path.

```
[ec2-user]$ hello.sh
bash: hello.sh: command not found
[ec2-user]$ ./hello.sh
Hello ec2-user
Today's date is : Fri Jun 18 07:43:55 UTC 2021
[ec2-user]$ /home/ec2-user/hello.sh
Hello ec2-user
Today's date is : Fri Jun 18 07:44:12 UTC 2021
[ec2-user]$ 
```

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The home folder is not in \$PATH

- **hello.sh** fails.
- **./hello.sh** succeeds because the current folder is the folder containing the script.
- Using the full path **/home/ec2-user/hello.sh** works from any folder.

Checkpoint questions



What are some tasks that you can automate by using shell scripts?

In what scenarios could you use shell scripts with conditional statements?

1. Some common tasks for shell scripts include:
 - Backing up important information
 - Moving files to storage locations so that only the newest files are visible
 - Finding duplicate files where thousands of files exist
2. Shell scripts with conditional statements can be used when:
 - The script asks the user a question that has only a few answer choices
 - Deciding whether the script must be run
 - Ensuring that a command ran correctly and taking action if it failed

Key takeaways



- Bash shell scripts offer a way to automate complex, multi-command operations into a single file.
- By using a script template, you can help ensure proper documentation in scripts.
- Running a script requires proper permissions.
- Variables that the script uses can be supplied from the command line or interactively from the user who is running the script.
- Conditional statements create different logic paths in the script (by using `if`, `gt`, `equality`, and others).
- **Security!** Check that the script contains only the required functionality.
- **Test!** Test all scripts to confirm that they function as expected.

Some key takeaways from this lesson include:

- Bash shell scripts offer a way to automate complex, multi-command operations into a single file.
- By using a script template, you can help ensure proper documentation in scripts.
- Running a script requires proper permissions.
- Variables that the script uses can be supplied from the command line or interactively from the user who is running the script.
- Conditional statements create for different logic paths in the script (by using `if`, `gt`, `equality`, and others).
- **Security!** Check that the script contains only the required functionality.
- **Test!** Test all scripts to confirm that they function as expected.