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Linux: List All Environment Variables Command

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How do I display all my environment variables using bash shell on RHEL / Debian / Ubuntu / CentOS / Fedora / Mint Linux operating systems?

You can use any one of the following command to display the environment variables and their values.

a) `printenv` command – Print all or part of environment.

b) `env` command – Print all exported environment or run a program in a modified environment.

c) `set` command – Print the name and value of each shell variable.

Examples

I recommend that you use the `printenv` command:

```
printenv
```

OR

```
printenv | less
```

OR

```
printenv | more
```

Sample outputs:

Fig.01: Command to see a list of all currently defined environment variables in a Linux bash terminal

A list of the commonly used variables in Linux

System Variable	Meaning	To View Variable Value Type
BASH_VERSION	Holds the version of this instance of bash.	echo $BASH_VERSION
HOSTNAME	The name of the your computer.	echo $HOSTNAME
CDPATH	The search path for the cd command.	echo $CDPATH
HISTFILE	The name of the file in which command history is saved.	echo $HISTFILE
HISTFILESIZE	The maximum number of lines contained in the history file.	echo $HISTFILESIZE
HISTSIZE	The number of commands to remember in the command history. The default value is 500.	echo $HISTSIZE

HOME	The home directory of the current user.	echo $HOME
IFS	The Internal Field Separator that is used for word splitting after expansion and to split lines into words with the read builtin command. The default value is <space><tab><newline>.	echo $IFS
LANG	Used to determine the locale category for any category not specifically selected with a variable starting with LC_.	echo $LANG
PATH	The search path for commands. It is a colon-separated list of directories in which the shell looks for commands.	echo $PATH
PS1	Your prompt settings.	echo $PS1
TMOUT	The default timeout for the read builtin command. Also in an interactive shell, the value is interpreted as the number of seconds to wait for input after issuing the command. If not input provided it will logout user.	echo $TMOUT
TERM	Your login terminal type.	echo $TERM export TERM=vt100
SHELL	Set path to login shell.	echo $SHELL
DISPLAY	Set X display name	echo $DISPLAY export DISPLAY=:0.1
EDITOR	Set name of default text editor.	export EDITOR=/usr/bin/vim

set and env command

You can use the env / set command too:

```
env
env | more
set
set | more
```

Sample outputs:

```
    HOME=/home/vivek
    vivek@nas01:~$ env
    TERM=xterm-256color
    SHELL=/bin/bash
    XDG_SESSION_COOKIE=9ee90112ba2cb349f07bfe2f00002e46-1381581541.324726-906214463
    SSH_CLIENT=192.168.1.6 60190 22
    SSH_TTY=/dev/pts/1
    USER=vivek
    MAIL=/var/mail/vivek
    PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/usr/local/games:/usr/games
    PWD=/home/vivek
    LANG=en_IN
    SHLVL=1
    HOME=/home/vivek
    LANGUAGE=en_IN:en
    LOGNAME=vivek
    SSH_CONNECTION=192.168.1.6 60190 192.168.1.10 22
    _=/usr/bin/env
```

A NOTE ABOUT ENV/SET COMMAND

The env will only display a list of environment variables that have been exported and it will not show all bash variables. The set command allows you to change the values of shell options and set the positional parameters, or to display the names and values of shell variables. If no options or arguments are supplied, set displays the names and values of all shell variables and functions, sorted according to the current locale, in a format that may be reused as input for setting or resetting the currently-set variables. Hence, I recommend that you use printenv command to dump the list of all shell variables on screen. To save the list of all shell environment variables to a file, enter:

```
printenv > env.txt
cat env.txt
```

Use the grep command to search for particular variable:

```
printenv | grep foo
printenv | grep HOME
```

Recommend readings

- [Bash shell variables](#) from the Linux shell scripting wiki.
- Man pages: env(1)

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The author is the creator of nixCraft and a seasoned sysadmin, DevOps engineer, and a trainer for the Linux operating system/Unix shell scripting. Get the **latest tutorials on SysAdmin, Linux/Unix and open source topics via [RSS/XML feed](#)** or [weekly email newsletter](#).

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Thank you <3

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Thank you.It's really helpful.

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Thank you. This is a very informative.

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