Bash and Bash Scripting

Start of Week 3

Bash is a shell and command language used as a replacement for the Bourne Shell – called the Bourne-again Shell. Widely available – there may be some linux machines that don’t have bash pre-installed.

* <http://tldp.org/HOWTO/Bash-Prog-Intro-HOWTO.html>
* <http://www.tldp.org/LDP/Bash-Beginners-Guide/html/>
* <https://ostechnix.com/list-useful-bash-keyboard-shortcuts>

Most of what you can do in a bash script you can also do from the command line. A lot of “bash one-liners” are essentially small scripts.

## Navigation, repeating commands, etc: (Can’t use in scripts)

* Arrow keys can be used to go up and down through previous commands
* Ctrl-R to search our command history, Ctrl-P, Ctrl-N to navigate
* Alt + . use the last word of the previous command
* !! for the last command.
  + Text

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* !# in combination with the history command to execute a certain historical command
* !xyz repeasts the last command starting with xyz
* !$ give you the last word of the previous command

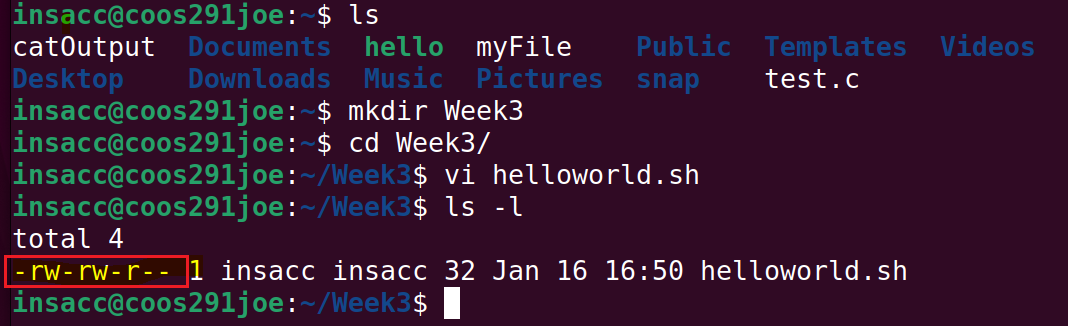
## Your First Bash Script (Hello World)

* Need the shebang (#!/bin/bash)
* File extensions of our bash script do not matter – some people will use .sh or .bash or something else to distinguish bash scripts from other files.
* We often use commands whereas in say, Java, we’d use methods.
* We have to change the permissions on the bash script in order to execute it. We would use the **chmod** command to change this:
  + <https://www.linuxfoundation.org/blog/blog/classic-sysadmin-understanding-linux-file-permissions>
* We also have to list the location of the interpreter (/bin/bash)

Our first script:

|  |
| --- |
| #!/bin/bash  echo “Hello World!” |

## Permissions

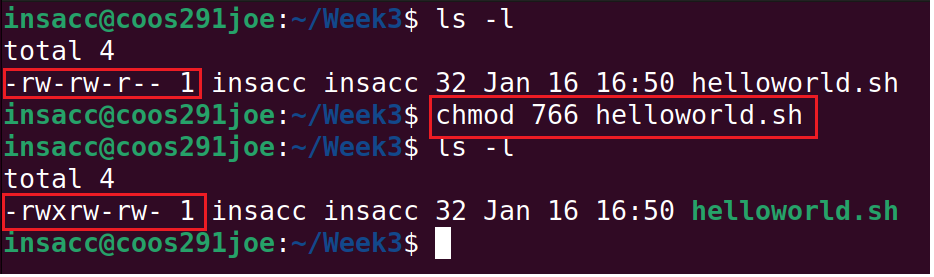


Taking a look at **helloworld.sh** via the long listing (ls -l), we can see we have 10 characters on the left that signify the type of file (- represents a file, d a directory, etc), and the remaining 9 characters correspond to the owner, group, and all users permissions.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Owner** | | | **Group** | | | **All Users** | | |
| - | R (4) | W (2) | * (1) | R | W | - | R | - | - |
| This is a file | Read | Write | No permission to execute | Read | Write | No permission to execute | Read | No permission to write | No permission to execute |

Using the **chmod** command, we can alter the permissions for a file/directory in terms of what the owner, group, and all users have access to do. If we want to execute our helloworld.sh, we would need to add the “execute” permission to that file, via the command **chmod 766 helloworld.sh**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **7** | **6** | **6** |
| Full permissions for owner (4+2+1) | Read/Write permissions for group  (4+2) | Read/Write permissions for all users  (4+2) |

****

**To execute:**

**Text

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## Scripts you’re already running

~/.bash\_profile (or .profile) and ~/.bashrc are shell scripts that contain shell commands. These files are executed in a user’s context when a new shell opens or when a user logs in so that their environment is set correctly.

~/.bash\_profile (or .profile) is executed for login shells and ~/.bashrc is executed for interactive non-login shells. This means that when a user logs in (via username and password) to the console (either locally or remotely via something called SSH), the ~/.bash\_profile (or .profile) script is executed for the initial terminal and returned to the user. After that, every time a new shell is opened, the ~/.bashrc script is executed. This allows users more fine-grained control over when they want certain commands executed. These shell scripts are meant to be written to by the local user to configure their own environment.

## Bash “Tricks” that work in scripts

At it’s base, a script is just a list of commands. Here are some things you can do from both scripts and command line:

* Brace expansion – “touch file{a,b,c}”, “touch file{1,2,3}”
  + touch filea
  + touch fileb
  + touch filec
  + Text

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  + Quickly copy a file to a backup
    - cp filename{,.old}
      * cp filename filename.old
      * Text

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  + & is used to fork a command (run in the background)
    - Running “firefox” from within our terminal will execute Mozilla Firefox as a process in the current session. Notice that we can’t interact with the terminal until Firefox is closed.
    - Running “firefox &” from within our terminal will run the same thing, but as a background process. We can still interact with the terminal.
  + ; is a command separator – “mkdir test; touch test/foo”
    - This will first create a directory called “test”
    - Then it will change the timestamp of the file “foo” within that “test” directory.
    - If that file doesn’t exist, touch creates it.
    - Graphical user interface

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  + && to execute ONLY IF the first command succeeds, || only if the first command fails
    - “cd foo && touch bar”
      * Touch bar (second command) will only execute if cd foo (first command) succeeds
    - “cd foo || mkdir foo && cd foo && touch bar”
      * If cd foo fails, it will execute mkdir foo
      * If mkdir foo succeeds, execute cd foo
      * If cd foo succeeds, execute touch bar
    - Be wary of using long chains like above, use if statements for that usually.

## Flow Control Basics

* Bash has an if statement!
* If \*test\*; then \*result\*; else \*other result\*; fi
* Text

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* There’s a handy-dandy “test” command to make logical decisions, as well as [ and [[ which we’ll talk more about later

## Variables

* $ means variable substitution
* Some environment variables, like $PATH, some special variables like $? And $$ will be covered later.
* We can set our own variables – name=Fred (Make sure we have no spaces)
* Calendar

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* New versions of bash support one-dimensional arrays. Declare it like “my\_array[2]=5” or “my\_array=(a b c d)”
  + But how do we reference them?
  + Text

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  + Have to use curly braces - ${my\_array[2]}
  + Can also @ to get the whole array, or #array[@] for length
* Use of ${} generally considered good practice
  + name=Fred
    - echo $nameerick
    - echo ${name}erick
    - Text

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* Bash variables are untyped. There is a “declare” but it’s very weak and we don’t typically use it at this stage.

## Arithmetic

* Variables can contain numbers, and we can do simple math.
* We use $(())
* Only use integers, though there is a calculate app (program) called “bc”
* Variables don’t need to be de-referenced in arithmetic, but you can if you want.

## Quoting, Escaping, etc (and relation to filename expansion)

* Dealing with spaces – how do you change to the director “foo bar”
  + foo\ bar
  + Don’t put spaces in directory names, generally.
  + Text

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* Difference between double (partial) and single (strong) quoting: Double quotes preserve meanings of things like $, `, and \, whereas single quotes only recognize ‘
* Quoting and escaping a very, very frequent sources of errors in scripts. Filename expansion will creep in, or an argument with unexpected spaces – so it is a good idea to check for problems in quotes first.
* With some utilities, like “echo”, \ will trigger a special meaning for a character – for instance \n for newline.

## Sample Function to demonstrate scope:

Text

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## Looping Structure Examples

|  |
| --- |
| #!/bin/bash  for i in $( ls ); do  echo item: $i  done |

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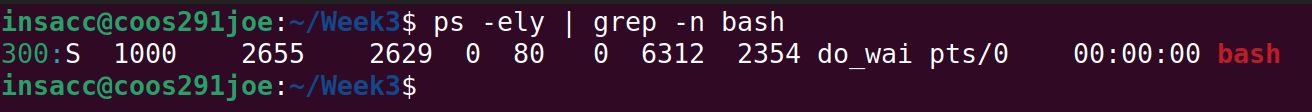
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## Revisiting Pipes

* “Unix philosophy urges the user of small, yet highly-focused programs that can be used together to perform complex tasks.” – Part of the bash paradigm
* Similar to redirects (>, >>, <), but instead of redirecting files, they redirect stdout of one process to the stdin of another.
* Example: ps -ely and grep <process I’m interested in>
* Solution: ps -ely | grep -n bash
* 

## Process Substitution

“ps -ely | grep bash” will do more or less the same thing as “grep bash < (ps -ely)”

* A few commands take inputs from multiple places, but many will take multiple files.
  + diff <(ls -1 -s <dir1 name>) <(ls -1 -s <dir2 name>)
  + Text

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## Order of Operations

* There is an overall order expansions are done in – brace expansions, tilde expansions, (variable process substitutions, arithmetic expansion, command substitution done in left-to-right fashion), word splitting, and filename expansion.
* <http://mywiki.wooledge.org/BashParser>

## Alias

* The “alias” command allows us to define our own commands, with desired switches.
* Text

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* Try the following:
  + alias hellothere=”echo Hello World”
  + Text

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* Try the following
  + alias mymod=’chmod 766 `ls -t \*.sh | head -1`’
  + Here, I am grabbing the first line (head -1) from a reverse listing of .sh files (according to time updated), and then feeding that line (filename) to chmod

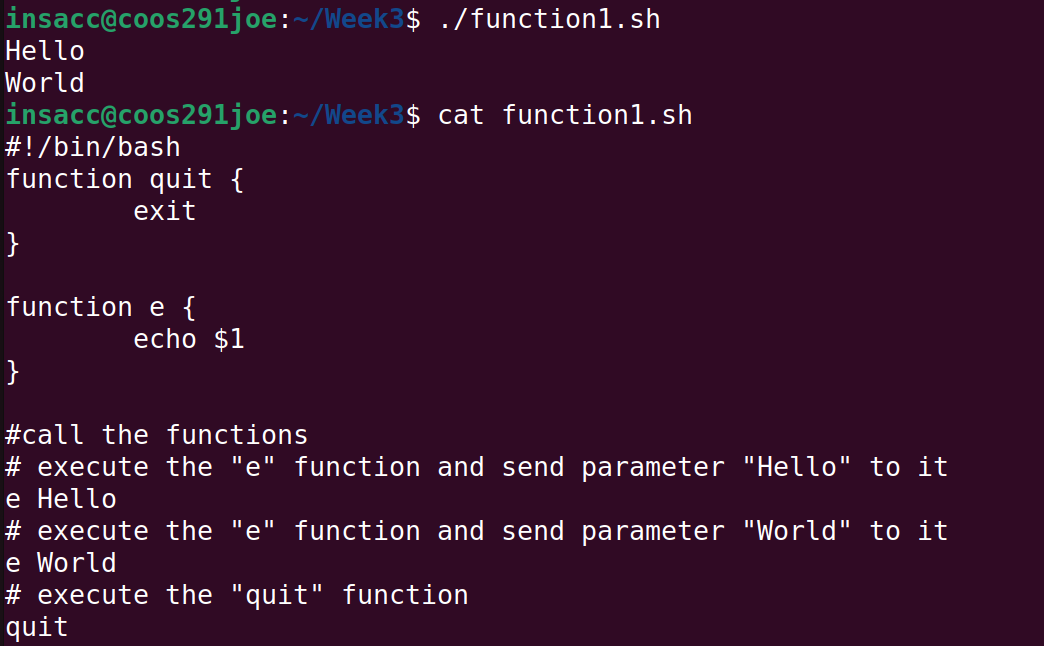
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## Functions

* We define functions in bash scripts via the keyword “function”
* Surround the scope for the function with braces – { }
* Call the functions by specifying the function name

|  |
| --- |
| function quit {  exit  }  quit |



* Parameters can be accessed via the “$” character
* For example, to refer to the first parameter, we would use “$1”, the second “$2”, etc

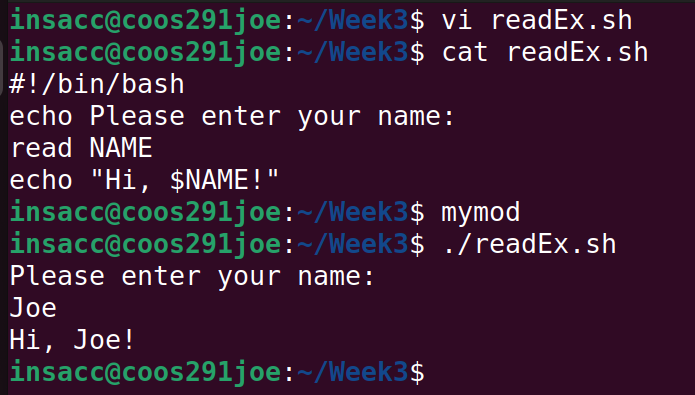
Menu Example

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## Read User Input with “read”

On many occasions, you may want to prompt the user for some input, there are several ways to achieve this. We can use the keyword “read” to read from STDIN, and also use it in combination with an identifier to save the input for later use.



Multiple inputs:

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Comments

* The line “read FN LN” has a whitespace character between variables FN and LN
* This can be matched with our whitespace character in our input. IE, “Joe Herbert” will detect the whitespace character between the two names and match accordingly.
* REMEMBER: If you want access variables, use the $ symbol followed by the variable name.

Let’s work together to create a new script that gives us a recursive directory / file listing and provide timing information on how long that listing took.

Remember, building up big, long command lines is useful – BUT sometimes we want to execute it from a file for re-use. At it’s simplest, bash scripts are just putting command in a file.

Let’s create a file called **ls\_time.sh** and open it in your editor of choice.

Text

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* We need to define variables before we use them
* ; are used to separate multiple commands
* > is used to redirect output to a file or other destination
* 2> redirects any errors that are encountered and puts them in a file specified by error\_log
* && and || are used for conditional execution of commands based on whether the command before was successful or not.

## Convert this script to use an IF block

* It would be handy if we could specify the directory we were going to do our **ls -R** from on the command line. What’s our of passing information to a program from the command line?
* We can use parameters when executing our script, and access them within the script via:
  + $1
  + $2
  + $3, etc
  + $# - # is the number of the parameter

Text

Description automatically generated

Comments:

* target\_directory=$1
  + This creates a new variables called “target\_directory” and assigns it the value of our first parameter that we used when executing the script. In this case, it was “~”.
* The if statement tests whether these commands (single command really, with redirected output for stdout and stderr). If they are successful, we enter the if statement execution block.
  + If unsuccessful, we enter the “else” block.

Maybe we should check that our target is actually a directory. For this, we can take a look at the “test” command. Tests are performed using [ ]. We can copy our ls\_timer2.sh file to ls\_timer3.sh as a starting point.

|  |
| --- |
| #!/bin/bash  # Does a recursive directory listing and times it.  directory\_listing=my\_dirs  error\_log=my\_errs  target\_directory=$1  if [ ! -d $target\_directory ] # tests whether our directory is in fact a directory, ! negates  then  # not a directory  echo "$target\_directory is not a valid directory. Need to specify something valid"  exit 1  fi  echo "Doing a recusive listing of $target\_directory"  start\_time=$(date +%s%N)  if ls -R $target\_directory > ${directory\_listing} 2> ${error\_log}  then  echo "Done. Took $((($(date +%s%N) - start\_time)/1000000)) ms."  else  echo "Could not list all directories."  fi |

Text

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Comments:

* [ ! -d $target\_directory ] invokes the test command on our variable
  + ! negates the result, so we’re really testing if target\_directory is **NOT** a directory
  + -d is a switch for the test command, specifying that we’re testing if it’s a directory
  + $target\_directory is the location we wish to test.
  + exit 1 is a command to exit our script without errors.

We should probably make it so that we can have arguments for directory\_listing and error\_log

Text

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Comments:

* [[ $# -gt 1 ]] tests the number of parameters we have
  + “shift” will decrease this count
  + $# is the number of parameters
  + -gt means “greater than”
* shift moves the pointer of the first parameter to the next parameter
* [[ $key == “-l” ]] tests whether the value of our parameter is “-l”
  + If it is, grab the value of the next parameter and assign it to “directory\_listing”
    - Recall, that at the beginning of the while loop, we shifted 1 position.
* [[ $key == “-e” ]] tests whether the value of our parameter is “-e”

## Other Types of Loops

Let’s look at some different types of loops. We have break and continue just like in Java, as well as a select statement.

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Comments:

* trap is similar to catch in Java. For any interrupt keys we press, we’ll execute the echo statement followed by exit 1
* for element in \*
  + iterates through all files in our \* listing
  + then performs the command “file” on each, which outputs file descriptions for each file encountered

Text

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Comments:

* my\_array=(a b c d e)
  + declares an array variable and assigns elements a,b,c,d,e to it
* for element in ${my\_array[@]}
  + iterates through each element of the array, regardless of size of the array
* echo “For loops: $element”
  + outputs the element value

Text

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