

UNIX/Linux Operating System

Shells

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Operating Systems a continuous del Molning

Introduction to shells

- The outermost layer of the operating system
 - ➤ It provides the user interface, which interprets the user commands
 - ➤ It was the unique interface before the introduction of graphics servers

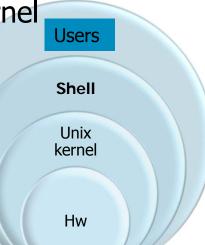
In Unix, a shell is not part of the kernel

> It is a normal user process

> Similar to DOS command

but more powerful

> Offers a programming environment



Operating Systems

Introduction to shells

- A shell allows
 - > Submitting commands
 - Writing shell programs (scripts)
 - Storing commands in a script file
 - Script execution by submitting the script file
- Writing a script avoids
 - > Typing complex command sequences repeatedly
 - Automating tedious, repetitive and error prone tasks

Main shells

Shell	Characteristics
Bourne shell (sh)	Original shell, often used in Unix system programming
C-shell (csh)	Berkeley shell, very good for interactive usage, and for user scripts. Uses a syntax similar to C language
Korn shell (ksh)	Bourne shell rewritten by AT&T to be similar to C-shell
Tahoe C-shell (tcsh)	Tahoe project, an improved C-shell (superset)
Bourne again shell (bash)	Is compatible but extends csh and ksh Standard GNU Shell; POSIX conformant; powerful but not complex. Most sh scripts are interpreted by bash without changes

Introduction to shells

- Often/bin/sh is a link to the current shell
 - > The default shell can be modified
 - chsh (change login shell)
- Different shells may accept slightly different commands

tcsh	bash
set myVar = "ciao"	myVar="ciao"
setenv MY_DIR /home/usr/	export MY_VAR=/home/usr/
if (\$str1==\$str2) then else endif	if test \$str1=\$str2 then else fi if [\$str1=\$str2]; then else fi

shell execution

- A shell can be activated
 - > Automatically at login
 - Nested within another shell
 - > As a user program
 - | bin/tcsh, /bin/bash, ...
- A shell exit by typing
 - > Command exit
 - ➤ The EOF character (usually CTRL-d)
 - Exiting an inner shell will return to the outer shell

Introduction to bash

- At login a shell looks for, and executes, some configuration files that contain initialization commands
 - > For each login with password, the shell executes
 - Global scripts
 - /etc/profile
 - User scripts (executes the first existing file among)
 - ~/.bash_profile, ~/.bash_login, ~/.profile
 - For each login without a password, the shell executes
 - ~/.bashrc
 - > For each logout, the shell executes
 - ~/.bash_logout

shell command expansion

- Some characters have special meaning within the shell
- bash provide complex substitution mechanisms
 - ➤ After dividing the command line into tokens, the shell expands or solves these tokens, i.e., it applies different types of replacement
 - Braces, tilde, variables and parameters, commands, arithmetic expressions, etc.
 - ➤ The substitution is complex and takes place with a specific order

Parentheses

- Parentheses (), [], {}
 - > Enclose variables, arithmetic operations, etc.
 - ➤ In some cases, they are subject to automatic expansion (brace expansion)

echo: print command

- name=Jean
- echo \$namePaul
- > echo {\$name}Paul
 {Jean}Paul
- pecho \${name}Paul
 JeanPaul

This variable does not exist

Quoting

- "Quoting" means the use of for quotation marks
 - Quotes ' '
 - Variables within quotes are not expanded
 - They cannot be nested
 - Double quotes " "
 - Variables within double quotes are expanded
 - They can be nested
 - ➤ Backslash \
 - Identifies the escape character, which remove the special meaning of the character that follows it

Examples

```
myVar="A string"
```

- echo \$myVar
- A string
- > echo 'v = \$myVar'
- v = \$myVar
- > echo "v = \$myVar"
- v = A string
- > echo \\$myVar \$myVar
- echo "double quote\""
 double quote"

variable usage:

- set without \$
- used with \$

 \dots \rightarrow no expansion

" ... " \rightarrow expansion

\ cancels the meaning of the next character, which becomes a "meta-character"

Using the output of command

- The standard output of a command can be captured by
 - > Enclosing the command in \$ (...)
 - > Enclosing the command in backquotes ``
- In particular, the output of a command can be stored in a variable

```
>out=`cat file.txt`
>echo $out
>... file content ...
>out=`< file.txt`
>echo $out
>... file content ...
```

Command execution

- In a shell a command can be executed
 - Directly
 - d /home ; ls

The current shell executes the command; change directory to /home; executes ls; at the end of the working directory is /home

- > Indirectly
 - (cd /home; ls)

The current shell executes the command in a subprocess; change directory to /home; executes 1s; at the end of the working directory is the original directory

History

A shell

- > Keeps the list of the last submitted commands
 - In bash, the list is stored in file .bash_history
 - Stored in the user home directory
- > Shell commands allow reference this list

Command	Meaning
history	Displays the list of the last submitted commands
!n	Executes command number n in the history list
!str	Executes last command beginning by str
^str1^str2	Executes last command replacing str1 by str2

Aliasing

- In shell you can define new names to existing commands
 - > The alias command allows defining these names

No blanks near symbol =

- alias name="string"
 - defines a new alias for "string"
- > The shell maintains a list of aliases
 - alias
 - provides the list of active aliases used in the shell
- Old aliases can be deleted
 - unalias name
 - Deletes the alias name from the shell

Examples

```
Existent aliases
alias
alias egrep='egrep --color=auto'
alias emacs='emacs -r -geometry 100x36 -fn 9x15 &'
alias fgrep='fgrep --color=auto'
alias grep='grep --color=auto'
alias ls='ls --color=auto'
alias mx='xdvi -mfmode ljfour:1200'
                                       Definition of a new
alias ll= "ls -la"
                                             alias
 unalias emacs
                              Deletion of a pre-existing alias.
unalias 11
```