Lybryant Wright

CUNY John Jay College

CSCI 401

LAB 1

Simply, environment variables are shell settings used by different linux applicaitons. All of the machines environment variables control how the shell works with the user. These variables hold very important information about the systems environment including,the path to executable files, the language, language font, shell location, username, desktop session, and much more. These settings can be set by exporting variables, and unset by using the unset command in the terminal. Proper handling of environment variables can allow the user to share configuration settings between sessions and numerous applications as well as affect system behavior. By exporting and unsetting variables you can customize your environment how you wish based on applications you plan on running.

This lab allowed me to explore and manipulate the different environment variables that can be managed in this session. For instance, using the fork() function I was able to create a new process that inherited many settings from the original, essentially creating a child process from the parent process. As stated the child process inherited the configuration from the parent process however, there are some key differences between the two. The main difference is that they will have different process ID's and different parent process ID's.