**Environmental variables** are variables that are defined for the current shell and are inherited by any child shells or processes. Environmental variables are used to pass information into processes that are spawned from the shell.

**Shell variables** are variables that are contained exclusively within the shell in which they were set or defined. They are often used to keep track of ephemeral data, like the current working directory.

By convention, these types of variables are usually defined using all capital letters. This helps users distinguish environmental variables within other contexts.

Environment variables that we create in one shell might not necessarily be accessible in another shell and nothing will be returned. We can exit shells by using the command ‘exit’. Variables by default are only accessible in the mother shell, and not in any child shells. We can make these variables accessible by exporting them.

Each shell session keeps track of its own shell and environmental variables. We can access these in a few different ways. We can see a list of all of our environmental variables by using the env or printenv commands

**Miljøvariabler**

Man kan bruge disse variable til at læse noget indhold uden at skulle skrive det i sit fulde, hvilket kunne være til gavn for opsnusende applikationer og selvstartende systemer.

’PATH’ er for eksempel en variabel over eksekverbare filer. Denne har en række referencer til /bin foldere, exe applikationer og kommandoer som kan eksekveres gennem variablen.

PATH: A list of directories that the system will check when looking for commands. When a user types in a command, the system will check directories in this order for the executable.

Sikkerhedsmæssigt ville man aldrig tilføje noget til commands: da der ville kunne vedhæftes underliggende scripts til miljøvariablen som ville kunne eksekveres når man skriver kommandoer.

Man kan lave en miljøvariabel til at køre et script. Vi kan oprette et shell som vi kan køre det i.

Man kan køre et script der sætter de her miljøvariabler

**Øvelser:**  
nohup <command> &>/dev/null &

env LOG\_PATH=$HOME/mylogfile.txt java -jar simpleLogging-0.2.jar

curl -G "http://128.199.61.20:8765/logger" --data-urlencode "log=Someone knocked"