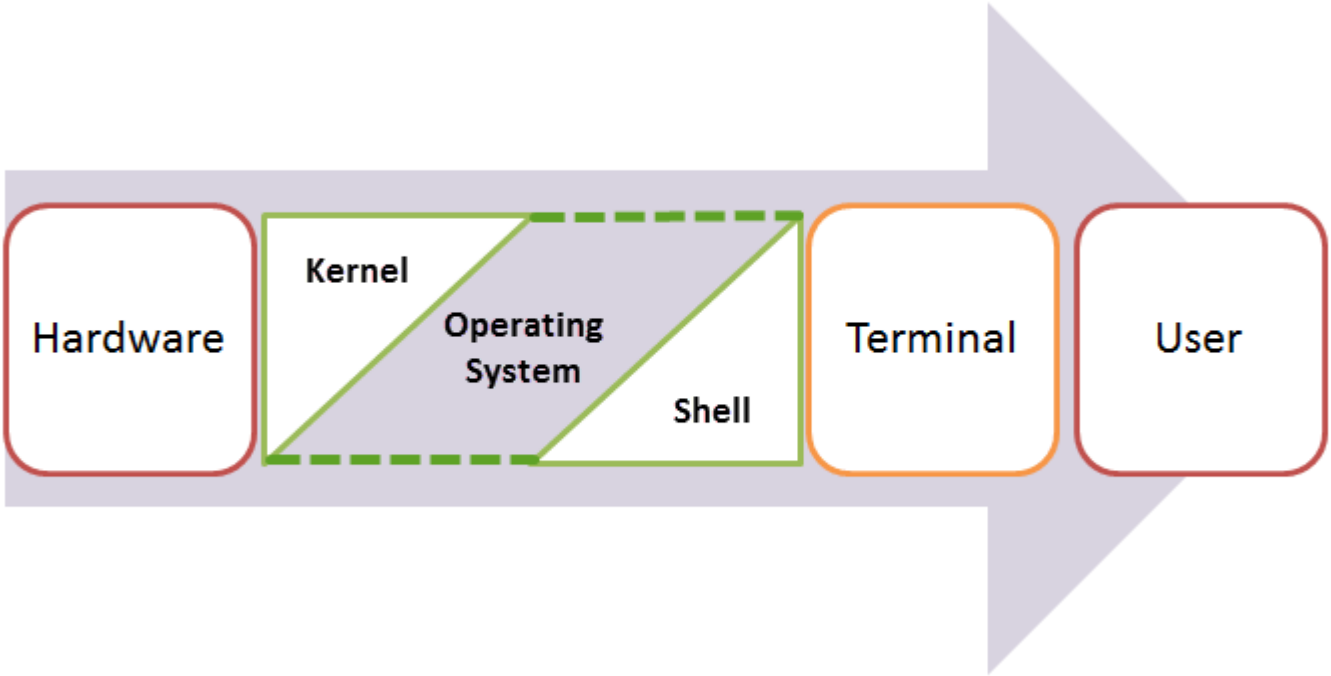
What is a Shell?

An Operating is made of many components, but its two prime components are -

- Kernel
- Shell



A Kernel is at the nucleus of a computer. It makes the communication between the hardware and software possible. While the Kernel is the innermost part of an operating system, a shell is the outermost one.

A shell in a Linux operating system takes input from you in the form of commands, processes it, and then gives an output. It is the interface through which a user works on the programs, commands, and scripts. A shell is accessed by a terminal which runs it.

When you run the terminal, the Shell issues **a command prompt (usually $),** where you can type your input, which is then executed when you hit the Enter key. The output or the result is thereafter displayed on the terminal.

The Shell wraps around the delicate interior of an Operating system protecting it from accidental damage. Hence the name **Shell**.

In this tutorial, you will learn-

Types of Shell

There are two main shells in Linux:

1. The **Bourne Shell**: The prompt for this shell is $ and its derivatives are listed below:

- POSIX shell also is known as sh
- Korn Shell also knew as sh
- **B**ourne **A**gain **SH**ell also knew as bash (most popular)

2. The C shell: The prompt for this shell is %, and its subcategories are:

- C shell also is known as csh
- Tops C shell also is known as tcsh

We will discuss bash shell based shell scripting in this tutorial.

What is Shell Scripting?

Shell scripting is writing a series of command for the shell to execute. It can combine lengthy and repetitive sequences of commands into a single and simple script, which can be stored and executed anytime. This reduces the effort required by the end user.

Let us understand the steps in creating a Shell Script

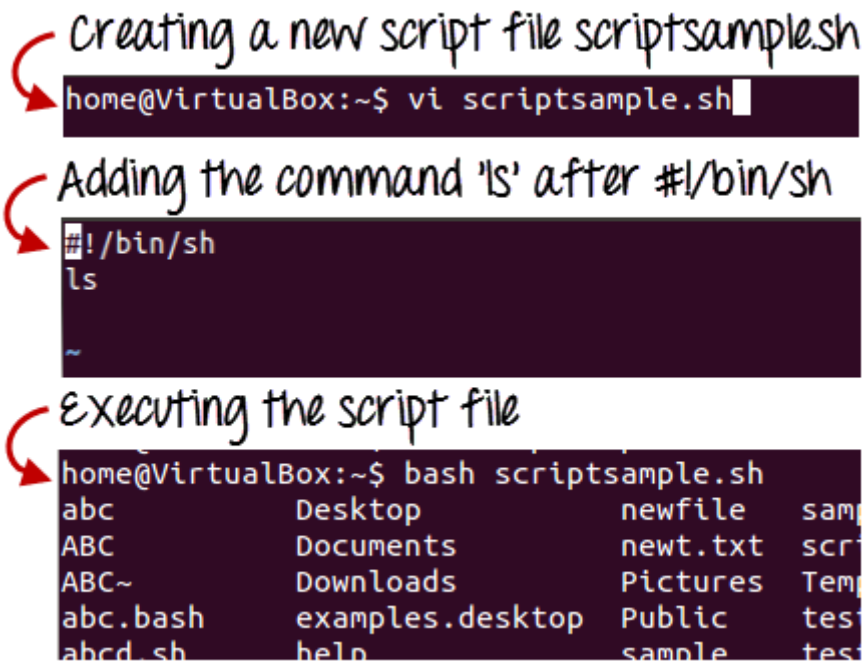
1. **Create a file using** a **vi** editor(or any other editor). Name script file with **extension .sh**
2. **Start** the script with **#! /bin/sh**
3. Write some code.
4. Save the script file as filename.sh
5. For **executing** the script type **bash filename.sh**

"#!" is an operator called shebang which directs the script to the interpreter location. So, if we use"#! /bin/sh" the script gets directed to the bourne-shell.

Let's create a small script -

```
#!/bin/sh
ls
```

Let's see the steps to create it -



Command 'ls' is executed when we execute the scrip sample.sh file.