Automating Linux Kernel Compilation with Shell Scripting

Version: 6.11.7

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Assignment: **03**

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Contents

1. Introduction

This report describes the approach taken to automate the Linux kernel compilation process using a Bash script, along with challenges encountered and solutions applied.

2. Approach

The primary steps in the Bash script `kernel_automator_TazmeenAfroz_22P-9252.sh` include:

- Downloading the specified kernel version from an official source.
- Verifying the integrity of the downloaded file.
- Extracting the kernel source code.
- Configuring the kernel settings, including disabling conflicting security certificates.
- Compiling the kernel and its modules.
- Installing the compiled kernel and updating the bootloader.

3. Step wise procedure

3.1. Downloading the kernal resource

```
echo "Downloading Linux kernel version $version..."
if wget $url -O $file_name; then
    echo "Kernel downloaded successfully."
else
    echo "Failed to download the kernel."
    exit 1
fi
```

3.2. Verifying the integrity

```
sha256sum $file_name
```

3.3. Extracting the Source Code and Change directory to the kernel source

```
echo "Extracting the kernel source."
if tar xvf $file_name; then
    echo "Kernel source extracted successfully."
else
    echo "Failed to extract the kernel source."
    exit 1
fi

cd $directory || {
echo "Kernel directory not found";
 exit 1;
 }
```

3.4. Installing Dependencies

```
echo "Installing dependencies."
if sudo apt-get install -y git fakeroot build-essential
   ncurses-dev xz-utils libssl-dev bc flex libelf-dev bison
   ; then
    echo "Dependencies installed successfully."
else
    echo "Failed to install dependencies."
    exit 1
fi
```

3.5. Configuring the Kernel

```
echo "Configuring the kernel."
if cp -v /boot/config-$(uname -r) .config; then
    echo "Existing system configuration copied."
else
    echo "Failed to copy the system configuration."
    exit 1
fi


# Disable conflicting security certificates

scripts/config --disable SYSTEM_TRUSTED_KEYS
```

```
scripts/config --disable SYSTEM_REVOCATION_KEYS
```

Launching menuconfig for kernel customization

```
echo "Launching menuconfig for kernel customization..."
if make menuconfig; then
    echo "Kernel configured successfully."
else
    echo "Kernel configuration failed."
    exit 1
fi
```

3.6. Compiling the Kernel

```
echo "Compiling the kernel."
if make -j$(nproc); then
    echo "Kernel compiled successfully."
else
    echo "Kernel compilation failed."
    exit 1
fi
```

3.7. Install kernel modules

```
echo "Installing kernel modules."
if sudo make modules_install;
then
    echo "Kernel modules installed successfully."
else
    echo "Failed to install kernel modules."
    exit 1
fi
```

3.8. Install the kernel

```
echo "Installing the kernel."
if sudo make install; then
    echo "Kernel installed successfully."
else
    echo "Kernel installation failed."
    exit 1
```

```
fi
```

3.9. Updating the Bootloader

```
echo "Updating the bootloader (GRUB)."
if sudo update-initramfs -c -k $version && sudo update-grub
   ; then
    echo "Bootloader updated successfully."
else
    echo "Failed to update the bootloader."
    exit 1
fi
```

3.10. Rebooting and Verification

```
echo "Rebooting the system."
read -p "Press Y to reboot now or N to reboot later: "
   choice
if [[ $choice == "Y" || $choice == "y" ]]; then
    sudo reboot
else
    echo "Reboot manually to apply the new kernel."
fi
```

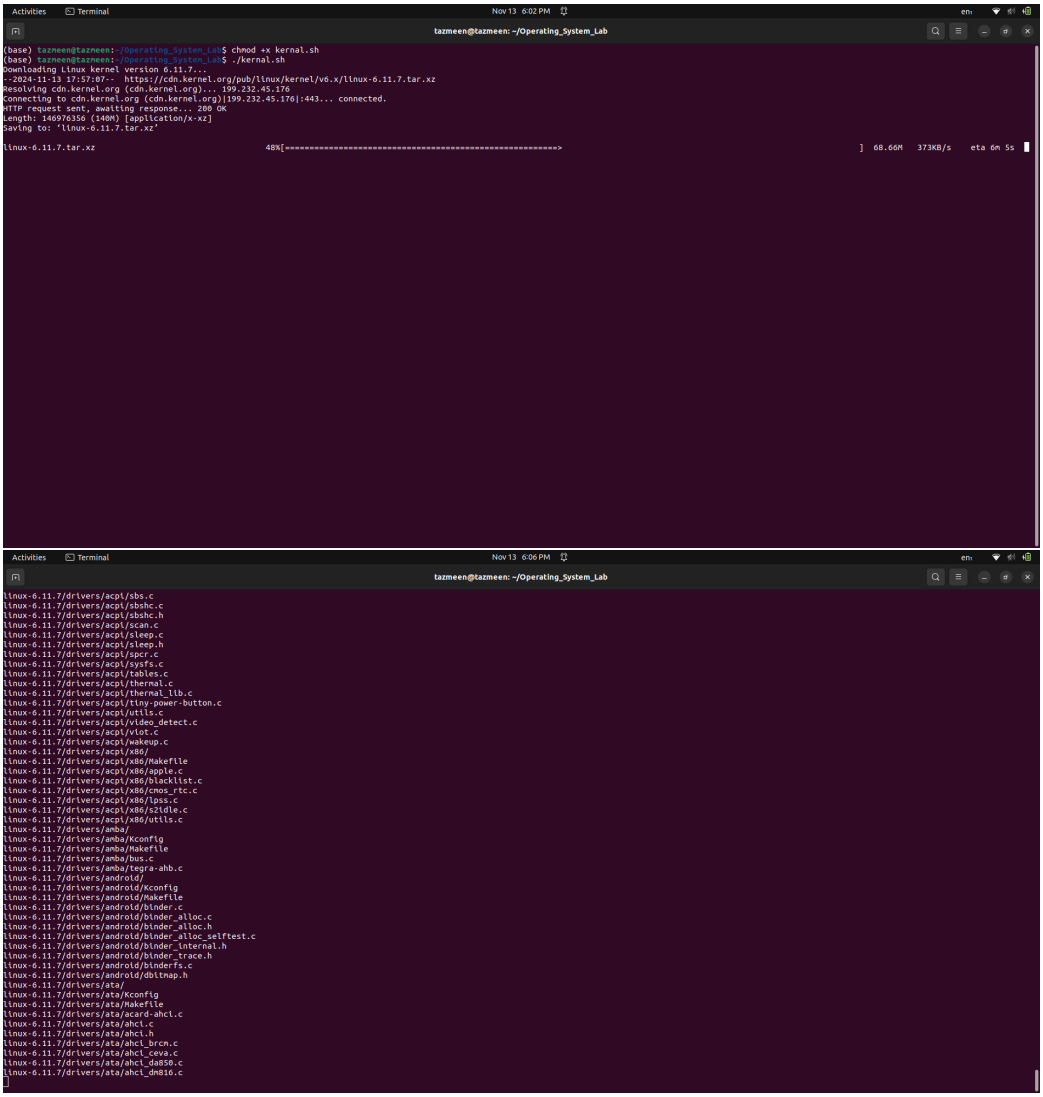
Upon rebooting, I confirmed that the new kernel was active by running:

```
uname -r
```

4. Automation Process Screenshots

Below are screenshots taken during the automation process.

Automating Linux Kernel Compilation with Shell Scripting



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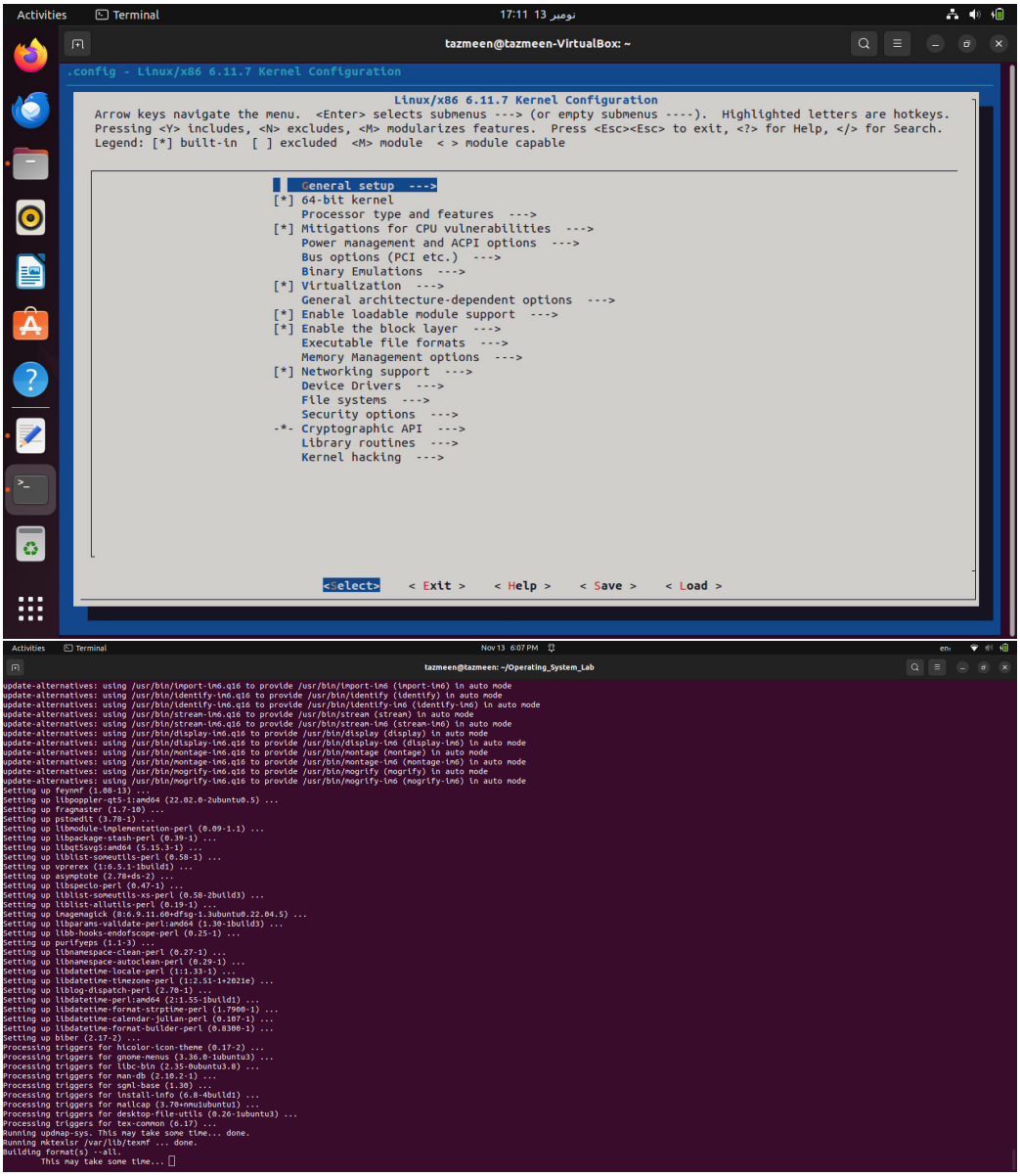

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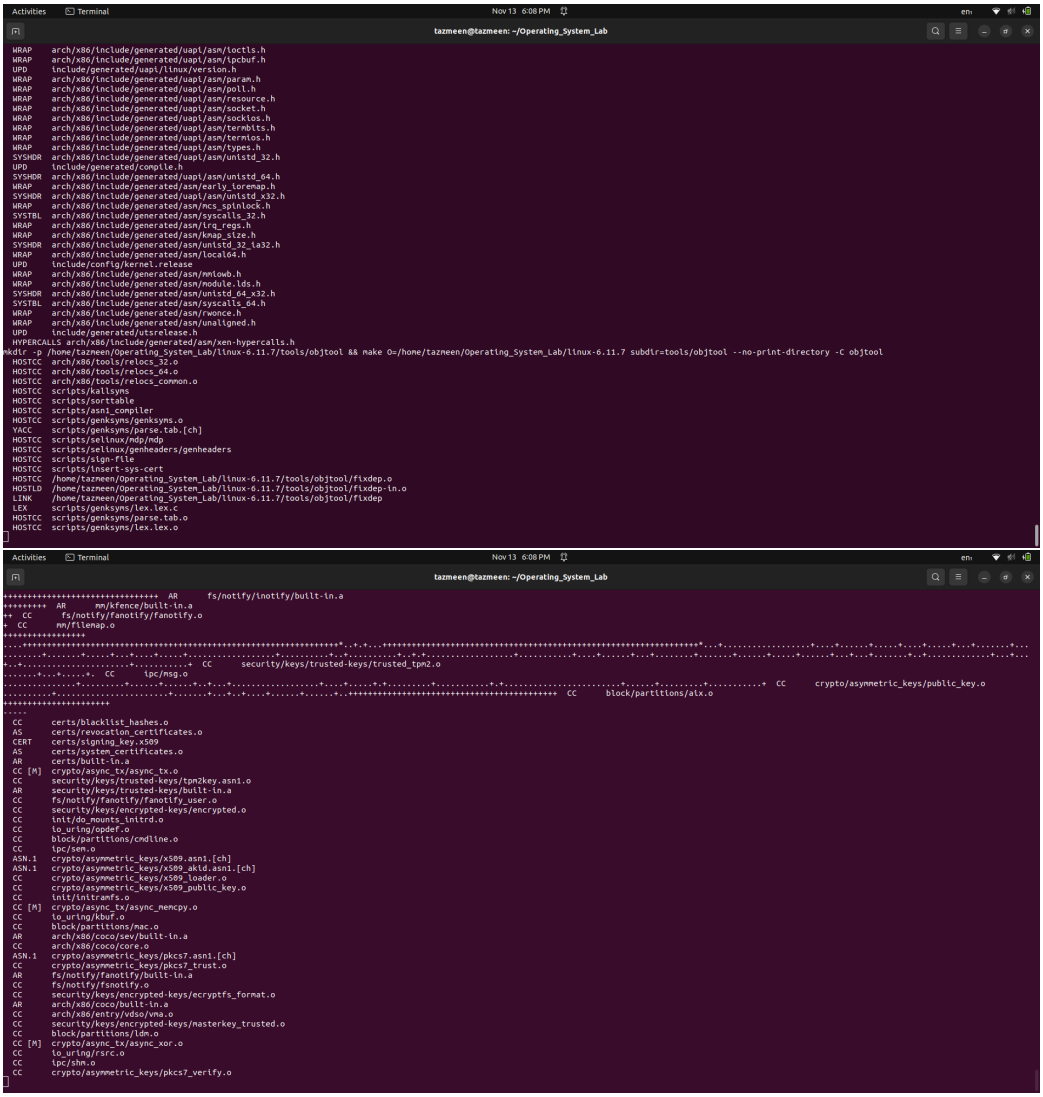
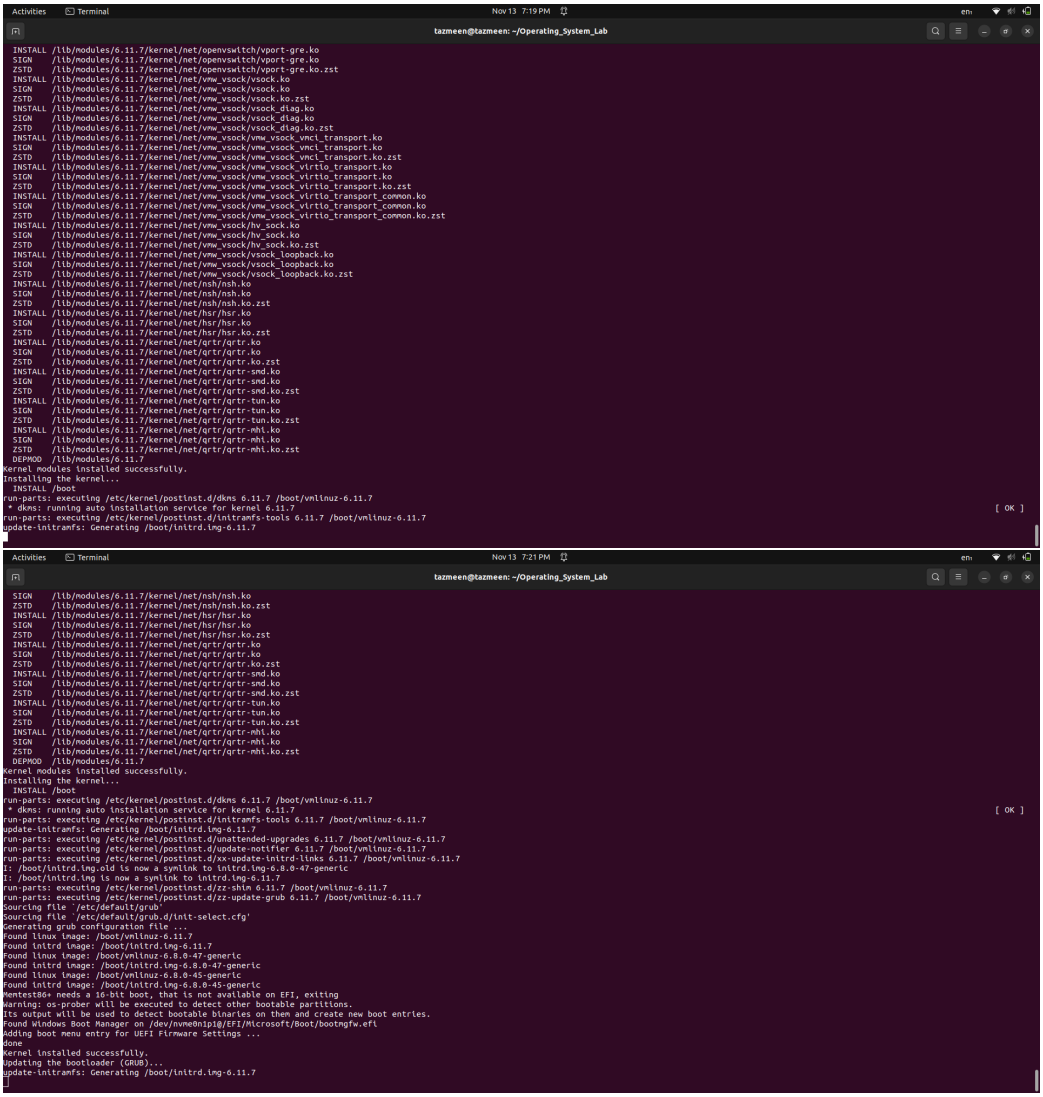
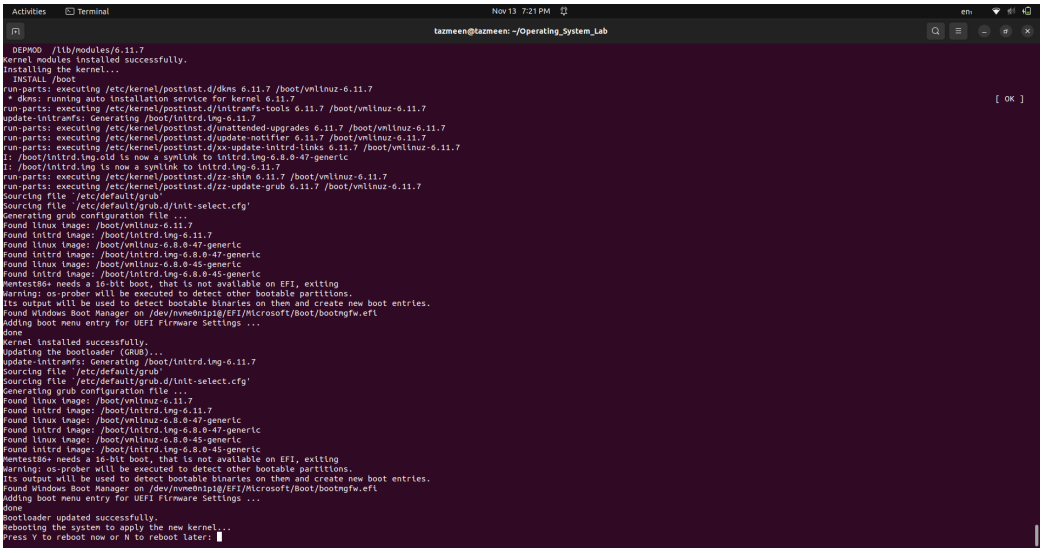


Automating Linux Kernel Compilation with Shell Scripting





The output confirmed that kernel version 6.11.1 was successfully running.

5. Challenges and Solutions

Throughout the kernel compilation process, I encountered few issues that required troubleshooting and custom solutions.

5.1. Challenge: Extended Compilation Time

The kernel compilation process was lengthy, taking several hours. T

5.2. Challenge: Make Error - SYSTEM_TRUSTED_KEYS

During compilation, an error occurred related to make compilation. This error was particularly frustrating as it interrupted the build process after significant progress.

Solution: After researching the issue, I found that disabling these options would bypass the error. I resolved it using the following commands in a shell script, which automatically reconfigured these options:

```
scripts/config --disable SYSTEM_TRUSTED_KEYS
scripts/config --disable SYSTEM_REVOCATION_KEYS
```

By running these commands, I successfully disabled the problematic configuration settings and resumed the compilation without further issues.