Bash Workshop I: The Basics

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Intro

I. File Tree

II. CL

III. Pipes

A brief history of bash



- Born: 1989
- Probably played Pokémon on the Game Boy
- ▶ Is an umbrella term for zsh, fish, . . .
- Runs on Unix-like environments

A brief history of Unix



- Born: 1969
- Probably listened to Michael Jackson
- Gave rise to Linux, BSD, and Mac OS
- ► We call them "Unix-like"

Unix: The Good Part

The Unix philosophy (paraphrased):

- Store data in plain text
- Hierarchical file system
- Everything is a file
- One tool does one thing
- ► Tools together strong

Quote

The power of a system comes more from the relationships among programs than from the programs themselves.

— Brian Kernighan and Rob Pike ¹

¹The UNIX Programming Environment. 1984. viii

Unix: The Chaotic Part

"Unix" is mostly created by these three groups of people who routinely disagree with each other:²

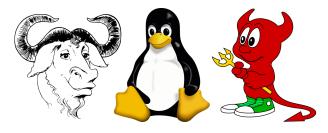


Figure: GNU, Linux, and BSD³

Despite this, they all hate Microsoft. We will be talking about GNU today.

²Not convinced? Try man ps.

³Yes, I know there are many BSDs

Before we start

- ► This is **not** a Linux workshop (although I encourage you to use it)
- This is not a vim workshop either
- You should use a monospace font
- Anyone caught using PowerShell will be kicked out of the venue

Conventions in slides

- \$ indicates a bash command. Do not type the \$.
- **#** indicates a **comment**. Do not type it or anything after it.

For example, when you see:

```
1 $ echo hello # printf("hello\n");
```

You are going to type:

```
1 echo hello
```

Then hit Enter. I encourage you to type commands by hand.

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Files

Each of these is a different file:

- ▶ a
- ▶ .a (Hidden)
- ▶ a.txt
- ► A.txt
- ► A.TXT

Note

The dot and suffix are part of the filename.

Avoid spaces and special characters (except ._-). If you have to, surround filename in quotes: 'Lab Report (3) final FINAL-1.docx'

cat: Printing a file

Open a bash terminal inside 01-files/, then:

Explanation

cat is short for "concatenate" (to join together) but it's mostly used to print files.

cp, mv, rm: Relocating a file

Try this inside 01-files/:

```
1 $ ls
2 $ cp a b
3 $ ls
4 $ mv a.txt b.txt
5 $ ls
6 $ rm b
7 $ ls
```

- ▶ 1s lists files
- copy a into a file called b
- ▶ move a.txt into a file called b.txt
- remove b

cp, mv: Overwriting and renaming

When the destination does not exist, cp and mv simply create that file. **Otherwise, it is destroyed and overwritten.**

Try this inside 01-files/:

```
1 $ cp a b # creates b
2 $ cat a
3 $ cp a a.txt # overwrites a.txt
4 $ cat a.txt
```

Renaming a file in bash works like so:

```
1 $ mv b newb
```

Directories

Each of these is a **directory** ("dir" for short):

- ▶ 01-files/
- ▶ 01-files/c/
- ▶ 01-files/.c/ (Hidden dir)

Convention

For clarity, we add a slash (/) to the end of a directory in the slides. However, in reality it often makes no difference.

cd, pwd: Changing directory

Try this inside 01-files/:

```
1 $ cd c/
2 $ pwd
3 $ cd ../
4 $ pwd
```

- cd: "change directory"
- pwd: "print working directory"
- ../ means "parent directory"

1s: Listing directories

Try this inside 01-files/:

```
1 $ ls
2 $ ls -a
3 $ ls -1
4 $ ls -la
5 $ ls c/
```

- ▶ ls: "list"
- -a is short for --all
- ▶ -1 enables long listing format
- -1a = -1 + -a

mkdir, rm: Creating and deleting directories

Try this inside 01-files/:

```
1 $ mkdir dir/
2 $ rm -r dir/
3 $ mkdir -p dir/subdir/
4 $ ls dir/
```

- mkdir: "make directory"
- ▶ -r is short for --recursive
- -p is short for --parents

cp, mv: Into and out of directories

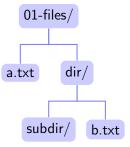
Try this inside 01-files/:

```
1 $ cp a dir/
2 $ mv b.txt dir/
3 $ mv dir/a b.txt
```

- ► Copy a into dir/
- ► Move b.txt into dir/
- Move dir/a back into b.txt

File tree

Think of any directory as a tree.



Paths

File \cup directory = **path**. ⁴

No paths under the same directory can bear the same name. These **cannot** coexist:

- ▶ 01-files/data/, a directory
- ▶ 01-files/data, a regular file

⁴At least in the scope of this workshop.

Absolute & relative paths

- ▶ Paths beginning with / are absolute: /usr/bin/cat
- ► Otherwise it is relative: 01-files/

If you know where you are, you can convert a relative path to an absolute one.

Example

Your location: /home/you/

Relative path: bash-workshop/01-files/

Absolute path: /home/you/bash-workshop/01-files/

Wildcard

* is a character to match any number of (including zero) characters.

Exception

Hidden paths will remain hidden unless you explicitly specify the dot: .*

Example

	a/	b/	a-copy.txt	b.txt
*	√	√	✓	\checkmark
a*	\checkmark		\checkmark	
*.txt			\checkmark	\checkmark

Technically it's called a glob pattern but who cares. Also there are other weird symbols like ? or [] but I swear * is most of us will ever use.

. and . .

Inside every dir⁵ there are two special dirs:

- ▶ ./ current dir
- ▶ ../ parent dir

You can use them in relative paths.

Example

Your location: /home/you/

Relative path: ../friend/bash-workshop/01-files/

(Note that /home/you/../friend/ is just /home/friend/)

Absolute path: /home/friend/bash-workshop/01-files/

⁵Except /

Challenge

Inside 01-files/:

- ► Enter challenge/
- Create backup/
- Copy a.txt into dir/
- Move dir/ into backup/
- Verify using 1s
- Delete backup/
- Go to the next section's directory

Solution

```
1 $ cd challenge/
2 $ mkdir backup/
3 $ cp a.txt dir/
4 $ mv dir/ backup/
5 $ ls
6 # Output: backup/ a.txt
7 $ ls backup/dir/
8 # Output: a.txt
9 $ rm -r backup/
10 $ cd ../../02-cli/
```

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The CLI

CLI stands for **command line interface**, as opposed to a GUI.

```
rwxnwxrwt. 4 root root 4896 Sep 12 23:58 tmp
```

Figure: A stereotypical, Hollywood-like CLI.

Anatomy of a command

```
1 # get first 5 lines of file
2 $ head -n 5 longfile.txt
```

head Executable file somewhere

-n Option (aka flag) 5 Argument to -n

longfile.txt Argument to head

Anatomy of a command

Anatomy of a command:

Notes

- ▶ Not every program uses this --long-option convention
- ► The equal sign after --ignore is optional in this command
- '*.o' does not expand to a list of files. It is simply a string.

I can't possibly remember all --this and --that!

You don't need to, thanks to **man pages**! (Short for manual pages)

Try:

1 \$ man ls

If it doesn't work, try https://man.archlinux.org/man/ls.1

Challenge

- Read the man page for head
- Experiment with files in 02-cli/
- Find a command to generate the following:

```
1 ==> p0.txt <==
2 MANIFESTO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

3 
4 ==> p1.txt <==
5 I. BOURGEOIS AND PROLETARIANS.
```

Challenge

- Read the man page for head
- Experiment with files in 02-cli/
- Find a command to generate the following:

```
1 ==> p0.txt <==
2 MANIFESTO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.
3
4 ==> p1.txt <==
5 I. BOURGEOIS AND PROLETARIANS.</pre>
```

Solution

```
1 $ head -n1 -v p0.txt p1.txt
```

Learning by doing

```
Inside 02-cli/, run:
```

```
$ diff sway.1.conf sway.2.conf
```

Congratulations, you just learned how to use diff!

Now, what does this command do?

```
$ comm -12 sway.1.conf sway.2.conf
```

Lifehacks⁶

- ▶ Use ↑↓
- ▶ Ctrl-W: delete one word to the left
- ► Ctrl-U: delete everything to the left
- Ctrl-K: delete everything to the right
- Ctrl-7: undo (might not work in Git Bash)
- ► Ctrl-C: abort
- Ctrl-R: search history
- Ctrl-L: clear screen

⁶Should work in most shells.

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stdout

When you printf, where does the string go?

Your screen? Yes but also no.

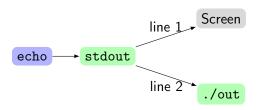
stdout, or $\mathbf{standard}$ $\mathbf{output},$ is a special file where \mathtt{printf} dumps its $\mathtt{output.}^7$

⁷Yes, there's stderr too, but we won't be talking about it.

Capturing stdout

You can capture the stdout of a command and direct it somewhere else than your screen, such as a file. Try this:

```
1 $ echo hello  # print to terminal
2 $ echo hello > out  # write to file
```



> and >>

Try >> instead of >. What happens?

```
1 $ echo hello >> out
2 $ cat out
```

Repeat a few times with both > and >>. What's the difference?

> and >>

Try >> instead of >. What happens?

```
1 $ echo hello >> out
2 $ cat out
```

Repeat a few times with both > and >>. What's the difference?

Observation

> overwrites the file, but >> appends to it.

stdin

The opposite of stdout is stdin: standard input. Some programs read from stdin when they expect a path but aren't given any.

Try this in 03-pipes/:

```
1 $ ls random/ | head -n 5
```

stdin

The opposite of stdout is stdin: standard input. Some programs read from stdin when they expect a path but aren't given any.

```
Try this in 03-pipes/:
```

```
$ ls random/ | head -n 5
```

Observation

Normally head expects a filename, but when none is given, it falls back to stdin — which is what 1s printed to stdout.

Convention

We sometimes call the vertical bar (|) the **pipe** character.

The power of pipes

You can chain commands with pipes. Classic recipe (still in 03-pipes):

```
1 $ cat numbers
2 $ cat numbers | sort
3 $ cat numbers | sort | uniq
4 $ cat numbers | sort | uniq | wc
```

The power of pipes

You can chain commands with pipes. Classic recipe (still in 03-pipes):

```
1 $ cat numbers
2 $ cat numbers | sort
3 $ cat numbers | sort | uniq
4 $ cat numbers | sort | uniq | wc
```

Observations

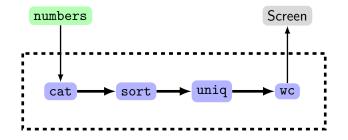
- Each program takes the last one's stdout as stdin
- Only the final program will print to terminal

Explanation

- By default, sort sorts stdin in dictionary order (check man page for more)
- wc is short for "word count", although the first thing it prints is the number of lines.

Pipes illustrated

1 \$ cat numbers | sort | uniq | wc



Challenge

Can you think of a way to eliminate a pipe? (Hint: man sort)

grep

Try this in 03-pipes: 8

\$ ls random/ | grep JI

 $^{^8 \}mbox{For Mac}$ users, instead of grep you might have to type ggrep

grep

Try this in 03-pipes: 8

\$ ls random/ | grep JI

Explanation

grep is a powerful tool to match a substring. By default, it takes a file (or stdin), and prints all lines containing a pattern ("JI").

⁸For Mac users, instead of grep you might have to type ggrep

Challenge

Inside 03-pipes/random/:

- ► List all filenames containing "FDU"
- List all filenames containing "UM" (upper and lower cases) (Hint: man grep)
- List all filenames containing "UM" but not "FDU" (upper and lower cases for both substrings)

Solution

```
1 $ ls | grep FDU
2 $ ls | grep -i UM
3 $ ls | grep -i UM | grep -i -v FDU
```

Conclusion

- Files and directories form a tree
- One tool does one thing, but flags specify how
- ▶ When in doubt, read documentation
- Chain together tools and unleash immense power

Feedback Survey



The End

Thank You For Coming!

Credits

- The Free Software Foundation, logo of GNU Bash. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gnu-bash-logo.svg
- Robin Nicholas, Patricia Saunders and The Open Group, logo of UNIX. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:UNIX_logo.svg
- ► The Free Software Foundation, logo of GNU. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_GNU_logo.png
- Larry Ewing, logo of Linux. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Linux_logo.jpg
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