Bash Shell Scripting

Complete printf command

#!/bin/bash

Learn how to automate common tasks using bash shell scripting

printf command:



- Both echo and printf commands are used to display string or value of a variable.
- The difference is that echo sends a newline at the end of its output, there is no way to "send" an EOF in printf command.
- The advantage of printf command:
 - We can format the output
 - Useful in awk command/scripting as well
- Syntax:
- printf "format\n" "arguments"
- printf "format_with_modifiers\n" "arguments"
- Note: format/format_with_modifiers is an optional and we can omit it.





- Syntax:
- printf "format\n" "arguments"
- Different types of formats are:

| Format | Description |
|--------|--|
| %d | For signed decimal numbers |
| %i | For signed decimal numbers |
| %u | For unsigned decimal numbers |
| %0 | For unsigned octal numbers |
| %x | For unsigned hexadecimal numbers with lower case letters (a-f) |
| %X | For unsigned hexadecimal numbers with upper case letters (A-F) |
| %f | For floating point numbers |
| %s | For string |
| %% | For percent % symbol |





- Syntax:
- printf "format_with_modifiers\n" "arguments"
- Different types of format modifiers are:

| Format | Description |
|--------|--|
| N | This specifies the width of the field for output. |
| * | This is the placeholder for the width. |
| - | To left align output in the field. (Default: Right align) |
| 0 | Pad result with leading 0s. |
| + | To put + sign before positive numbers and - sign for negative numbers. |

Thank you