

UNIX/Linux Operating System

Shell scripts

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Introduction to shell scripts

- Shell languages are interpreted languages
 - > There is no explicit compilation
- Pros & Cons
 - > Shell available in every UNIX / Linux environment
 - > Faster production cycle
 - ➤ Lower run-time efficiency
 - > Fewer debugging possibilities
 - ➤ Used for writing "Quick and dirty" software

Introduction to shell scripts

- Scripts
 - Are normally stored in files with .sh extension
 (.bash)
 - ➤ But recall that the extensions are not used UNIX/Linux to determine the file type
- They can be executed using two techniques
 - Direct execution
 - > Indirect execution

Direct execution

```
./scriptname args
```

- The script is executed from the command line as a normal executable file
 - > The script file must have the execute permission
 - chmod +x ./scriptname
 - ➤ The first line of the script can specify the name of the script interpreter
 - #!/bin/bash Or #!/bin/sh
 - ➤ It is possible to execute the script using a specific shell
 - /bin/bash ./scriptname args

Direct execution

- ./scriptname args
- The script is executed by a sub-shell
 - > i.e., by a new shell process
 - Environment (variables) of the original process and of the new one are not the same
 - Changes to the environment variables made by the script, and used within the script, are lost at exit

Indirect execution

source ./scriptname args

- The source command executes the script given as its argument
 - > It is the current shell to run the script
 - "The current shell sources the script"
 - > It is not necessary that the script is executable
 - ➤ The changes made by the script to environment variables remain in effect in the current shell

Example: direct and indirect execution

Direct execution:

> scriptName.sh

The shell executes the script as a sub-shell. Executing exit the subshell terminates. The initial process resumes control.

#!/bin/bash
NULL Script
exit 0

indicates a comment

Indirect execution:

> source scriptName.sh
The shell executes the script.
Executing exit the shell process
terminates

Script debugging

- A script can be debugged
 - > Partially (only a few lines of the script)
 - > Fully (the whole script)
- Partial debug
 - > This is done using the **set** command
 - set -v ... set +v
 - Displays the shell commands in ... before running
 - set -x ... set +x
 - Displays the execution trace, i.e., displays the **result** of the commands in ...

Script debugging

Fully debug the script

- \rightarrow Use the options $-\mathbf{v}/-\mathbf{x}$ with the script command
 - **■** -v
 - Displays the commands executed by the script
 - Direct/indirect execution
 - o /bin/bash -v ./scriptname args
 - 0 #!/bin/bash -v
 - **■** -x
 - Displays the results of the commands executed by the script
 - Direct/indirect execution
 - o /bin/bash -x ./scriptname args
 - 0 #!/bin/bash -x

Operating Systems

Syntax: general rules

- The bash language is relatively "high level", offering
 - > Standard shell commands
 - ls, wc, find, grep, ...
 - > Standard constructs of the shell language
 - Input and output variables and parameters, operators (arithmetic, logic, etc.), control constructs (conditional, iterative), arrays, functions, etc.
- Often instructions/commands are written in separate lines
 - > on the same line, they must be separated by ';'

Syntax: general rules

- Comments
 - Character # indicates the presence of a comment on the line
 - ➤ A comment begins by character # and terminates at the end of line
- exit allows terminating a script returning an error code
 - > exit
 - > exit 0/1
- In shell, 0 means TRUE

Example of shell commands

Absolute path

```
#!/bin/bash

# This line is a comment

rm -rf ../newDir/
mkdir ../newDir/
cp * ../newDir/
ls ../newDir/;

# 0 is TRUE in shell programming
exit 0
```

Arguments

- The arguments of the command line are identified by \$
- Positional parameters
 - > \$0 is the script name
 - > \$1, \$2, \$3, ... indicate the arguments passed to the script on the command line
- Special parameters
 - > \$* Is the entire list (string) of arguments (excluding the script name)
 - > \$# Is the number of parameters (excluding the script name)
 - > \$\$ Is the process PID

Argument passing example

variables HOME and PATH

```
#!/bin/bash

# Using command line parameters in a script

echo "Process $0 is running"
echo "First argument: $1"
echo "Second argument: $2"
echo "Number of arguments $#"
echo "Argument list $*"
echo "Home directory $HOME"
echo "Path $PATH"
exit 0

Usage of the predefined environment
```

Variables

- Variables can be
 - Local (shell variables)
 - Available only in the current shell
 - Global (environment variables)
 - Available in all sub-shells
 - Are exported by the current shell

Variables

- Main features of shell variables
 - > Are not declared
 - ➤ A variable is created by assigning a value to the variable name
 - > Are case sensitive
 - Var, VAR, and var are different variables
 - > Some names are reserved for special purposes
- The list of all defined variables and associated value is displayed by command set
- The unset command clears the value of a variable
 - unset name

Local (shell) variables

- Characterized by a name and associated content
 - ➤ The contents associated to a name are strings (even if a string can be interpreted as a numeric value)
 - > The content specifies the type
 - Constant, string, integer, vector or matrix
 - Setting

No blanks around '='

- name="value"
- Usage
 - \$name

Double quotes are mandatory if the string includes blank characters

Examples

```
> var= "Hello world"
```

- > echo \$var
 Hello world
- > var=7+5
- > echo \$var
- 7+5
- > i=Hello world
- world: command not found

Variables are strings!!

Assign an arithmetic expression to a variable (more details later)

Assignment is incorrect (do to the blank)
Use quotes

```
▶let var=7+5
▶echo $var
12
```

Global (environment) variables

- The export command allows creating an environment variable visible by other processes
 - export name
- Notice that
 - Some environment variable names are predefined and reserved
 - > These variable names are typically uppercase
 - Can be displayed by means of the printenv command

Example: local and global variable

> v=one

> echo \$v

one

```
> v=one
```

> echo \$v

one

> bash

> ps -1

... Two bashes running

> echo \$v

> exit

> echo \$v

one

not set

This variable is

> echo \$v one > export v > bash > ps -1 ... Two bashes running > echo \$v one > exit

> Global variable because it has been exported by the sub-shell

Current shell local variable

Example: variables

Clear video

```
#!/bin/bash
                                         who: shows the
clear
echo "Hello, $USER!"
                                           logged users
echo
echo "List logged users"
who
echo "Set two local variables"
COLOR="black"; VALUE="9"
                                       Set commands on
echo "String: $COLOR"
                                         the same line
echo "Number: $VALUE"
echo
echo "Completed"
#exit
                            Also without explicit exit
```

Partial list

Predefined variables

Variable	Meaning
\$?	Stores the return value of the last process: 0 if successful, other than 0 (between 1 and 255) in case of error. Value 0 corresponds to the TRUE value (unlike in C language)
\$SHELL	Current shell
\$LOGNAME	Username used for login
\$HOME	User home directory
\$PATH	List of the directories, delimited by ':' used for searching the executable files and commands
\$PS1 \$PS2	Main prompt (usually '\$' for users, '#' for root) Auxiliary prompt (usually '>')
\$IFS	Lists the characters that delimits the "words" in an input string (see read shell command)

Examples

```
$ PS1="> "
> echo $HOME
...
> v=$PS1
> echo $PS1
...
> PS1="myPrompt > "
myPrompt > echo $v
...
```

shell prompt modifications

Return value (0=TRUE)

```
> myExe
myExe: command not found
> PATH=$PATH:.
> myExe
... myExe running ...
```

PATH modification, adding current directory

```
> ls foo
ls: cannot access foo:
No such file or directory
> echo $?
2
> ls bar*
bar.txt
> echo $?
0
```

Read from stdin

- The read function allows reading a line from standard input
- Syntax
 - > read [options] var₁ var₂ ... var_n
 - read can be possibly followed by a list of variables
 - The "words" of the read line will be assigned in turn to each variable
 - Possible excess words are all stored (as a string) in the last variable
 - If no variables are specified, the complete input string is stored in variable REPLY

Read from stdin

Supported options

- -n NCHARS
 - Returns after reading **NCHARS** characters without waiting for newline
- -t timeout
 - Timeout on reading
 - Returns 1 if a string is not typed within timeout seconds

Examples: read from stdin

> read v
input line string
> echo \$v
input line string

Input string assigned to variable v

2 variables, but input string includes 3 words

Input string assigned to the default variable REPLY

> read v1 v2
input line string
> echo \$v1
input
> echo \$v2
line string

- > read
- > One two three
- > echo \$REPLY

One two three

> read

One two three

- > v=\$REPLY
- > echo \$v

One two three

Exercise

Write a bash script that takes two numbers and prints their sum and product

```
#!/bin/bash
  -n no
                 # Sum and product
 newline
                 echo -n "Reading n1: "
                 read n1
                                                No blanks around
from stdin
                 echo -n "Reading n2: "
                                                    =, +, *
                 read n2
                 let s=n1+n2
Arithmetic
                 let p=n1*n2
                 echo "Sum: $s"
expression
                 echo "Product: $p"
(more detail
  later)
                 exit 0
```

Exercise

- Write a bash script that reads a username, and displays her/his number of logins
 - The list of logged users is produced by command who

Exercise

Write a bash script that reads a string, and displays its length

Output

- Output on stdout can be performed using
 - > echo
 - printf
- Function printf syntax is similar to C language printf
 - > Uses escape characters
 - > It is not necessary to delimit fields by ","

Output

echo

- Displays its arguments, delimited by blank, and terminated by newline
- Options
 - -n eliminates the newline
 - -e interprets escaped (\...) characters
 - \ъ backspace
 - \n newline
 - \t tab
 - \\ backslash
 - etc.

Examples: I/O

```
echo "Printing with a newline"
echo -n "Printing without newline"
echo -e "Deal with \n escape \t\t characters"
printf "Printing without newline"
printf "%s \t%s\n" "Hello. It's me:" "$HOME"
```

```
#!/bin/bash
# Interactive input/output
echo -n "Insert a sentence: "
read w1 w2 others
echo "Word 1 is: $w1"
echo "Word 2 is: $w2"
echo "The rest of the line is: $others"
exit 0
```

Arithmetic expressions

- Several notations can be used for defining arithmetic expressions
 - Command let "..."
 - Double parentheses ((...))
 - Square parentheses [...]
 - Syntactic statement expr
 - Evaluates an expression by means of a new shell
 - Less efficient
 - Normally not used

Notice that an arithmetic expression is evaluated as TRUE (exit status) IFF it is not 0 expression $!=0 \rightarrow TRUE$ exit status= $0 \rightarrow TRUE$

Examples

Use of ((e))

Use of let

```
> i=1
> let v1=i+1
> let "v2 = i + 1"
> let v3=$i+1
> echo $i $v1 $v2 $v3
1 2 2 2
```

```
> i=1
> ((v1=i+1))
> ((v2=$i+1))
> v3=$(($i+1))
> v4=$((i+1))
> echo $i $v1 $v2 $v3 $v4
1 2 2 2 2
```

Use of [e]

```
> i=1
> v1=$[$i+1]
> v2=$[i+1]
> echo $i $v1 $v2
1 2 2
```

The expression can include blanks using "..."

Conditional statement: if-then-fi

- The conditional statement if-then-fi
 - Checks if the exit status of a sequence of commands is equal to 0
 - Recall: 0=TRUE in UNIX shell
 - > If so, it executes one or more commands
- The statement can also include an else condition statement
 - if-then-else-fi
 - which allows also performing nested checks

Conditional statement: if-then-fi

Syntax 1
if condExpr
then
 statements
fi

Statement on a single line: ';' is mandatory

Syntax 2
if condExpr ; then
 statements
fi

Standard format

With else

Syntax 3
if condExpr
then
 statements
else
 statements
fi

Nested

if-then-else-fi
can be written as
if-then-elif-fi

Sntax 4
if condExpr
then
statements
elif condExpr
then
statements
else
statements
fi

Conditional statement: if-then-fi

- condExpr
 - Conditional expressions can use two syntactic flavors

```
# Syntax 1
test param op param
```

Different operators for

- Numbers
- Strings
- Logical values
- Files and directories

```
# Syntax 2
[ param op param ]
```

Square parentheses must be delimited by a blank

Conditional statement: if-then-fi

Operators for numbers		
-eq	==	
-ne	!=	
-gt	>	
-ge	>=	
-It	<	
-le	<=	
!	! (not)	

Operators for files and directories		
-d	Argument is a directory	
-f	Argument is a regular file	
-е	Argument exists	
-r	Argument has read permission	
-VV	Argument has write permission	
-X	Argument has execution permission	
-S	Argument has non-null dimension	

Operators for strings		
=	strcmp	
!=	!strcmp	
-n string	non NULL string	
-z string	NULL (empty) string	

Logical operators		
!	NOT	
-a	AND (inside [])	
-O	OR (inside [])	
&&	AND (in a sequence of commands)	
	OR (in a sequence of commands)	

Examples

```
if [ ] # NULL is false
   [ str ] # a random string is true
```

Logical values

Test on numbers

```
if [ $v1 -eq $v2 ]
then
  echo "v1==v2"
fi
```

```
Or
if test $v1 -eq $v2
```

```
if [ $v1 -lt 10 ]
then
  echo "$v1 < 10"
else
  echo "$v1 >= 10"
fi
```

Examples: file check

```
if [ "$a" -eq 24 -a "$s" = "str" ]; then
...
fi
```

AND of conditions

```
Equivalent format ([ = test command)

if [ "$a" -eq 24 ] && [ "$s" = "str" ]

if [[ "$a" -eq 24 && "$s" = "str" ]]
```

```
if [ $recursiveSearch -eq 1 -a -d $2 ]
then
  find $2 -name *.c > $3
else
  find $2 -maxdepth 1 *.c > $3
fi
```

Examples: string check

```
if [ $string = "abc" ]; then
  echo "string \"abc\" found"
fi
```

Test on strings

```
If $string is null (e.g., return from input) the syntax is
incorrect because is evaluated as: [ = "abc" ]
  Use double quotes for a error resistant syntax:
    if [ "$string" = "abc" ]; then
  which would be evaluated as: [ "" = "abc" ]
```

```
if [ -f foo.c ]; then
  echo "foo.c is in this directory"
fi
```

Test on file

Examples

```
#!/bin/sh
echo -n "Is it morning (yes/no)? "
read string
if [ "$string" = "yes" ]; then
   echo "Good morning"
else
   echo "Good afternoon"
fi
exit 0
```

Examples

```
#!/bin/sh
echo -n "Is it morning (yes/no)? "
read string
if [ "$string" = "yes" ]; then
  echo "Good morning"
elif [ "$string" = "no" ]; then
  echo "Good afternoon"
else
  echo "Sorry, wrong answer"
fi
exit 0
```

Uses elif

Iterative statement for-in

- Statement for-in
 - > Executes the commands, for each value taken by variable var
 - > The list of values can be given
 - Explicitly (list)
 - Implicitly (result of shell commands di shell, wildcards, etc.)

```
# Syntax 1
for var in list
do
statements
done
```

```
# Syntax 2
for var in list; do
statements
done
```

Examples: for with list

```
for str in foo bar echo charlie tango do
echo $str
done
```

Displays a list of strings

Displays a list of "numbers"

```
for foo in 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 do
echo $foo
done
```

Examples: for with shell commands

```
# Cycle using a variable
num="2 4 6 9 2.3 5.9"
for file in $num
do
    echo $file
done
```

Displays a list of "numbers" using a variable (array, see later)

Append the numbers from 1 to 50 to file number.txt

```
for i in $(echo {1..50})
do
   echo -n "$i " >> number.txt
done
```

'>' would overwrite

number.txt at every

iteration

Examples: for and wild-chars

Iteration on the script arguments

```
n=1
for i in $* ; do
   echo "arg#" $n = $i
   let n=n+1
done
```

Display all argument received on the command line

Remove files with name beginning by a OR b

```
for file in [ab]*; do
  rm -rf $file
  echo "Removing file $file"
done
```

Changes the privileges of files with name including digit 7

for f in \$(ls | grep 7); do chmod g+x \$f; done

Iterative statement while-do-done

Iterates while the condition is true

```
# Syntax 1
while [ cond ]
do
   statements
done
```

```
# Syntax 2
while [ cond ] ; do
   statements
done
```

Example

```
Displays 10 times a
#!/bin/bash
                                         message
limit=10
var=0
while [ "$var" -lt "$limit" ]
do
  echo "Here var is equal to $var"
  let var=var+1
done
exit 0
```

Example

```
Displays a message
#!/bin/bash
                                        until the correct
                                         string is given
echo "Enter password: "
read myPass
while [ "$myPass" != "secret" ]; do
  echo "Sorry. Try again."
  read myPass
done
exit 0
```

Example of read with stdin redirection

Since the while-do-done statement is considered to be unique, the redirection must be done at the end of the statement

Exercise

- Write a bash script that
 - > Takes two integers n1 and n2 from command line, otherwise reads them from stdin
 - Display a matrix of n1 rows and n2 columns of increasing integer values starting from 0
 - > Example

```
> ./myScript 3 4
0 1 2 3
4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11
```

Solution

```
#!/bin/bash
if [ $# -lt 2 ]; then
  echo -n "Values: "
  read n1 n2
else
  n1=$1
  n2=$2
fi
```

Double loop for displaying the values Reads input data

```
k=0
i = 0
while [ $i -lt $n1 ] ; do
j=0
while [ $j -lt $n2 ] ; do
echo -n "$k "
let k=k+1
let j=j+1
done
let i=i+1
echo
done
exit 0
```

Break, continue and ':'

- break and continue statements have the same meaning in shell and in C language
- Character ':' can be used
 - > For creating "null instructions"

```
• if [ -d "$file" ]; then
• : # Empty instruction
• fi
```

➤ For indicating a TRUE condition

```
while:
```

Arrays

- bash define also one-dimensional arrays
 - > A variable can be defined as an array
 - Explicit declaration is not required (but possible with the declare construct)
 - > Indices start from 0, as in C language

Arrays

Definition

- Element-wise
 - name [index] = "value"
- A new element can be created at any time

- By means of a list of values
 - name = (list of values separated by blanks)

> Reference

- A single element
 - \${name[index]}
- All elements
 - \${name[*]}

* or @

The use of {} is mandatory

Arrays

- > Number of elements
 - \${#name[*]}
- > Length of the i-th element (number of characters)
 - \${#name[i]}
- Statement unset eliminates an element or an array
 - unset name[index]
 - unset name

Examples: arrays

Initialized by a list

```
> vet=(1 2 5 hello)
> echo ${vet[0]}
1
> echo ${vet[*]}
1 2 5 hello
> echo ${vet[1-2]}
2 5
> vet[4]=bye
> echo ${vet[*]}
1 2 5 hello bye
```

Elimination

indexes

```
> unset vet[0]
> echo ${vet[*]}
2 5 hello bye
> unset vet
> echo ${vet[*]}

> vet[5]=100
> vet[10]=50
> echo ${var[*]}
100 50
Non contiguous
```

Exercise

- Write a bash script that
 - Reads a sequence of numbers, one per line, ending by 0
 - > Displays the values read in inverse order
 - > Example

```
Input n1: 14
...
Input n10: 123
Input n11: 0
Output: 123... 14
```

Solution

```
or:
#!/bin/bash
i=0
while true; do
  echo -n "Input $i: "
 read v
  if [ "$v" -eq "0" ] ; then
    break;
                       echo
  fi
                       let i=i-1
 vet[$i]=$v
                      while [ "$i" -ge "0" ]
  let i=i+1
                      do
done
                         echo "Output $i: ${vet[$i]}"
                         let i=i-1
                      done
    Output
                       exit 0
in inverse order
```