

BASH Programming - Introduction HOW-TO

by **Mike G mikkey** at **dynamo.com.ar**

Thu Jul 27 09:36:18 ART 2000

This article intends to help you to start programming basic-intermediate shell scripts. It does not intend to be an advanced document (see the title). I am NOT an expert nor guru shell programmer. I decided to write this because I'll learn a lot and it might be useful to other people. Any feedback will be appreciated, specially in the patch form :)

1. [Introduction](#)

- [1.1 Getting the latest version](#)
- [1.2 Requisites](#)
- [1.3 Uses of this document](#)

2. [Very simple Scripts](#)

- [2.1 Traditional hello world script](#)
- [2.2 A very simple backup script](#)

3. [All about redirection](#)

- [3.1 Theory and quick reference](#)
- [3.2 Sample: stdout 2 file](#)
- [3.3 Sample: stderr 2 file](#)
- [3.4 Sample: stdout 2 stderr](#)
- [3.5 Sample: stderr 2 stdout](#)
- [3.6 Sample: stderr and stdout 2 file](#)

4. [Pipes](#)

- [4.1 What they are and why you'll want to use them](#)
- [4.2 Sample: simple pipe with sed](#)
- [4.3 Sample: an alternative to ls -l *.txt](#)

5. [Variables](#)

- [5.1 Sample: Hello World! using variables](#)
- [5.2 Sample: A very simple backup script \(little bit better\)](#)
- [5.3 Local variables](#)

6. [Conditionals](#)

- [6.1 Dry Theory](#)
- [6.2 Sample: Basic conditional example if .. then](#)
- [6.3 Sample: Basic conditional example if .. then ... else](#)
- [6.4 Sample: Conditionals with variables](#)

7. [Loops for, while and until](#)

- [7.1 For sample](#)
- [7.2 C-like for](#)
- [7.3 While sample](#)
- [7.4 Until sample](#)

8. [Functions](#)

- [8.1 Functions sample](#)
- [8.2 Functions with parameters sample](#)

9. [User interfaces](#)

- [9.1 Using select to make simple menus](#)
- [9.2 Using the command line](#)

10. [Misc](#)

- [10.1 Reading user input with read](#)
- [10.2 Arithmetic evaluation](#)
- [10.3 Finding bash](#)
- [10.4 Getting the return value of a program](#)
- [10.5 Capturing a commands output](#)
- [10.6 Multiple source files](#)

11. [Tables](#)

- [11.1 String comparison operators](#)
- [11.2 String comparison examples](#)
- [11.3 Arithmetic operators](#)
- [11.4 Arithmetic relational operators](#)
- [11.5 Useful commands](#)

12. [More Scripts](#)

- [12.1 Applying a command to all files in a directory.](#)
- [12.2 Sample: A very simple backup script \(little bit better\)](#)
- [12.3 File re-namer](#)
- [12.4 File renamer \(simple\)](#)

13. [When something goes wrong \(debugging\)](#)

- [13.1 Ways Calling BASH](#)

14. [About the document](#)

- [14.1 \(no\) warranty](#)
- [14.2 Translations](#)
- [14.3 Thanks to](#)
- [14.4 History](#)
- [14.5 More resources](#)

[Next](#) [Previous](#) [Contents](#)