

CSC209H Worksheet: Shell Programming

1. What are the values of the variables `foo` and `bar` after executing the following commands? Suppose that the user types `bip` on the standard input.

- `foo=bar`
`bar=baz`
`read foo`

foo:

bar:

- `foo=bar`
`bar=baz`
`read $foo`

foo:

bar:

Figure this out in your head and then print your answers in the boxes above (without actually trying the commands.) Then type the commands on the computer to verify your answer.

SOLUTIONS: Do this yourself on `teach.cs` to find the solutions. Reading about them isn't the same as exploring at the keyboard. :)

2. Write a shell program in a file called `whatday.sh` that simply asks the user what day it is, reads what the user types from `stdin` and prints back a message saying `I love <day>`, where `<day>` is what the user entered. When it is run, your program should look something like this.

```
$ sh whatday.sh
What day is it?
Wednesday      <-- user types this
I love Wednesday.
```

3. What is the problem if you try to change your program so that the output looks like this? Notice the `s` after the day name this time. The videos didn't cover the easiest solution to this problem. If you already know how to solve it, go ahead and fix your program, if not move on to the next problem on this worksheet for now. Come back to work on this (with Google's help) after you have finished everything else.

```
$ sh whatday.sh
What day is it?
Wednesday      <-- user types this
I love Wednesdays.
```

4. Complete the table on the back of this handout by typing each expression into the bash shell. If the command produces an error, give the error message. Otherwise, show the result printed to standard output. In both cases, provide the return value. Remember that the variable `$_` will hold the return value of the last command that was executed. You can type `echo $_` to see this value.

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Expression	Error? (Y/N)	stdout or Error message	Return value
<code>test 3 = 4</code>	N	no output	1
<code>tree=maple test \$tree</code>	N	no output	0
<code>tree=maple test (\$tree = oak)</code>	Y	syntax error near unexpected token '\$tree'	2
<code>test \$undefined = something</code>	Y	test: =: unary operator expected	2
<code>echo yes > file1 echo no > file2 diff file1 file2</code>	N	1c1 < yes --- < no	1
<code>cp file1 file3 diff file1 file3</code>	N	no output	0
<code>grep es file3</code>	N	yes	0
<code>value=3 expr value + 4</code>	Y	expr: non-integer argument	2
<code>value=3 expr \$value * 4</code>	Y	expr: syntax error	2

- Copy your `whatday.sh` program to the file `weekday.sh` and change it to respond with either the message "The weekend! Yippee!" or "Back to work :(" depending on the input from the user. Consider the input Sunday and Saturday as the only valid weekend selections.
- See what happens when you run your `weekday.sh` program and press enter without entering a day at all. Fix your program so that when this happens, the program prints I don't know what day it is.
- In `/u/mcraig/209/shell-programming/` there are files named `chapter1` and `chapter-one` which both contain the first chapter of Sherlock Holmes. One of them has been corrected and the time-stamps have been corrupted and so don't tell you which one was the original. Which one has the mistake and which has the correction?
SOLUTIONS: Use `diff` to discover the difference and then read the line to see which is correct.
- In `/u/mcraig/209/shell-programming/` there are files named 0 through 9, that are the same. Except that one of them is not the same. Which one? Feel free to simply solve this from the shell prompt with a solution that only works because the number of files is small. What would you need to be able to find the mismatched files from a set of 100?
SOLUTIONS: You can find this by quickly doing `diff` on pairs. With only 10 files, it will take at most 6 calls to `grep`. To find a solution from a set of 100 files, you would need a loop. You wouldn't have to explore all pairs, just compare file1 to each other file and then if it matched none of them, you would know that it was the different one. If it matched all but one, then you have found the odd-man out.