

# Introduction to Unix shell

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## Introduction

Unix shell is a command line interpreter that provides a user interface for directing the operation of the computer by entering commands as text for a command line interpreter to execute, or by creating text scripts of one or more such commands. In plain English, it is a powerful way of telling your computer what to do. You can read more about the history of Unix shell here [http://www.softpanorama.org/People/Shell\\_giants/introduction.shtml](http://www.softpanorama.org/People/Shell_giants/introduction.shtml).

Developing skills for coding in any language consists of the following components:

- *Logic* - understanding the syntax, how commands and scripts are structured and how components fit together. This is something one has to learn.
- *Awareness* - knowing what commands, methods and tricks exist and what they can be used for. This is like checking your inventory of LEGO bricks - you need to know what you have in order to start thinking how to put them together to build what you want.
- *Google and Stack Overflow* <http://stackoverflow.com/> - what coding really is about.

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