Besides ~/.bash_history, another text file in our home directory that we should be aware of is ~/.bash_profile. The ~/.bash_profile is a list of Unix commands that are run every time we open our terminal, usually with a different command on every line. One of the most common commands used in a ~/.bash_profile is the alias command, which creates a shorter name for a command. Let's take a look at a ~/.bash_profile:

```
1   alias docs='cd ~/Documents'
2   alias edbp='nano ~/.bash_profile'
```

The first alias creates a new command docs. Now entering docs into the command line is the equivalent of entering cd ~/Documents into the comamnd line. Open let's edit our ~/.bash_profile with nano. If there's anything in your ~/.bash_profile already then start adding lines at the end of the file. Add the line alias docs='cd ~/Documents', then save the file and quit nano. In order to make the changes to our ~/.bash_profile take effect we need to run source ~/.bash_profile in the console:

```
1   source ~/.bash_profile
```

Now let's try using docs:

```
1   docs
2   pwd
3   ## /Users/sean/Documents
```

It works! Setting different aliases allows you to save time if there are long commands that use often. In the example ~/.bash_profile above, the second line, alias edbp='nano ~/.bash_profile' creates the command edbp (**ed**it **b**ash **p**rofile) so that you can quickly add aliases. Try adding it to your ~/.bash_profile and take your new command for a spin!

There are a few other details about the ~/.bash_profile that are important when you're writing software which we'll discuss in the Bash Programming chapter.

Summary

- history displays what commands we've entered into the console since opening our current terminal.
- The ~/.bash_history file lists commands we've used in the past.
- alias creates a command that can be used as a substitute for a longer command that we use often.

- The ~/.bash_profile is a text file that is run every time we start a shell, and it's the best place to assign aliases.

Mark as completed