

Getting Meta Information in Bash

Explore the commands used to retrieve details about Shell and meta information about commands.

Finding Out Your Default Shell

To find out what your default interpreter is, type this in the command window:

```
ps $$
```



The following sample output shows that we are using Bash Shell:

PID	TT	STAT	TIME	COMMAND
4755	s000	S	0:00.02	-bash



Now, to find out the *full execution* path of your shell interpreter, you can type `which bash`

```
which shell  
/bin/bash
```



Similarly, you can use or `echo $SHELL` for this same purpose:

```
echo $SHELL  
/bin/bash
```



Changing Your Default Shell

If your default shell is some other than **bash**, you can conveniently change your shell to bash by entering:

```
chsh -s /bin/bash
```



Getting Command Information in Linux

You can view the official documentation by typing `man` *command* or `info` *command* in the terminal. For example, to open the *manpage* of `cal` command, we use:

```
man cal
```



...and to open the documentation of `date` command, we will run this:

```
info date
```

