

The Shell

EOAS Software Carpentry Workshop

September 22nd, 2015

Introduction

Learning Goals

1. Explain how the shell relates to the keyboard, the screen, the operating system, and users' programs.
2. Explain when and why command-line interfaces should be used instead of graphical interfaces.

Files and Directories

Learning Goals

1. Explain the similarities and differences between a file and a directory.
2. Translate an absolute path into a relative path and vice versa.
3. Construct absolute and relative paths that identify specific files and directories.
4. Explain the steps in the shell's read-run-print cycle.
5. Identify actual command, flags, and filenames in command-line call.
6. Demonstrate the use of tab completion, and explain its advantages.

Files and Directories

Getting Started

You need to download some files to follow this lesson. These files are found on the shell lesson website (see etherpad)

1. Make a new folder in your Desktop called shell-novice.
2. Download shell-novice-data.zip and move the file to this folder.
3. If it's not unzipped yet, double-click on it to unzip it. You should end up with a new folder called workshop.
4. Open Git Bash

Enter this directory by typing the following command and hitting enter:

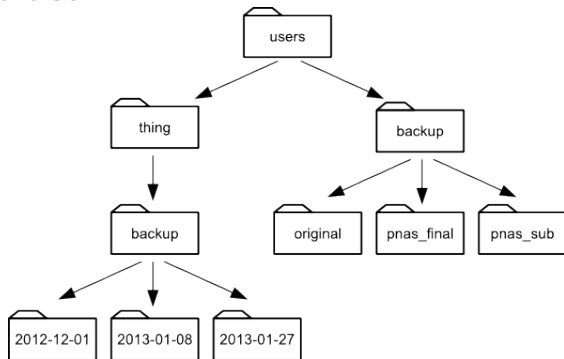
```
$ cd && cd Desktop/shell-novice/workshop
```

Files and Directories

Lesson Commands

- whoami
- pwd
- /
- ls
- ls -F
- ls -F data
- ls -F /data
- cd data
- cd ..
- ls -F -a
- ls north-pacific-gyre/2012-07-03
- ls no tab

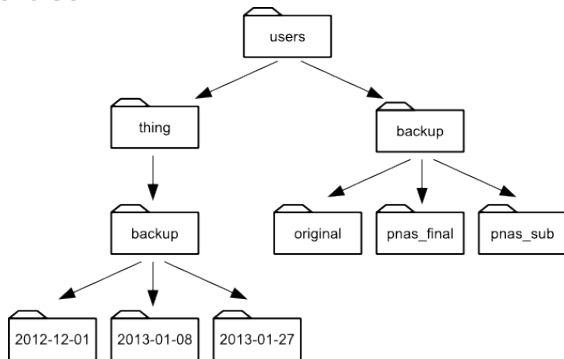
Exercise



If `pwd` displays `/users/backup`, and `-r` tells `ls` to display things in reverse order, what command will display:
`pnas_sub/ pnas_final/ original/`

1. `ls pwd`
2. `ls -r -F`
3. `ls -r -F /users/backup`
4. Either #2 or #3 above, but not #1.

Exercise



If `pwd` displays `/users/backup`, and `-r` tells `ls` to display things in reverse order, what command will display:
`pnas_sub/ pnas_final/ original/`

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2. `ls -r -F`
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4. Either #2 or #3 above, but not #1.

Creating Things

Learning Goals

1. Create a directory hierarchy that matches a given diagram.
2. Create files in that hierarchy using an editor or by copying and renaming existing files.
3. Display the contents of a directory using the command line.
4. Delete specified files and/or directories.

Creating Things

Lesson Commands

- `mkdir thesis`
- `cd thesis`
- `nano draft.txt`
- `rm draft.txt`
- `rm thesis`
- `rmdir thesis`
- `rm -r thesis`
- `mv thesis/draft.txt thesis/quotes.txt`
- `mv thesis/quotes.txt .`
- `cp quotes.txt thesis/quotations.txt`

Exercise

Jamie is working on a project and she sees that her files aren't very well organized:

```
$ ls -F
analyzed/  fructose.dat    raw/    sucrose.dat
```

The fructose.dat and sucrose.dat files contain output from her data analysis. What command(s) could you run so that the commands below will produce the output shown?

```
$ ls
analyzed  raw
$ ls analyzed
fructose.dat  sucrose.dat
```

Exercise

Jamie is working on a project and she sees that her files aren't very well organized:

```
$ ls -F
analyzed/  fructose.dat    raw/    sucrose.dat
```

The fructose.dat and sucrose.dat files contain output from her data analysis. What command(s) could you run so that the commands below will produce the output shown?

```
$ ls
analyzed  raw
$ ls analyzed
fructose.dat  sucrose.dat
```

Solution

```
$ mv fructose.dat analyzed/fructose.dat
$ mv sucrose.dat analyzed/sucrose.dat
```

Pipes and Filters

Learning Goals

1. Redirect a command's output to a file.
2. Process a file instead of keyboard input using redirection.
3. Construct command pipelines with two or more stages.
4. Explain what usually happens if a program or pipeline isn't given any input to process.
5. Explain Unix's "small pieces, loosely joined" philosophy.

Pipes and Filters

Lesson Commands

- `cd molecules`
- `wc *.pdb`
- `*, ?`
- `wc -l`
- `wc -help`
- `wc -l *.pdb > lengths`
- `cat lengths`
- `sort lengths > sorted-lengths`
- `head -1 sorted-lengths`
- `sort lengths | head -1`
- `cd north-pacific-gyre/2012-07-03`
- `wc -l *.txt`
- `wc -l *.txt | sort | head -5`
- `ls *Z.txt`

Exercise

In our current directory, we want to find the 3 files which have the least number of lines. Which command listed below would work?

1. `wc -l * > sort -n > head -3`
2. `wc -l * | sort -n | head 1-3`
3. `wc -l * | head -3 | sort -n`
4. `wc -l * | sort -n | head -3`

Exercise

In our current directory, we want to find the 3 files which have the least number of lines. Which command listed below would work?

1. `wc -l * > sort -n > head -3`
2. `wc -l * | sort -n | head 1-3`
3. `wc -l * | head -3 | sort -n`
4. `wc -l * | sort -n | head -3`

Loops



Loops

- Write a loop that applies one or more commands separately to each file in a set of files.
- Trace the values taken on by a loop variable during execution of the loop.
- Explain the difference between a variables name and its value.
- Explain why spaces and some punctuation characters shouldnt be used in file names.
- Demonstrate how to see what commands have recently been executed.
- Re-run recently executed commands without retyping them.

Variables in loops

Suppose that `ls` initially displays:

```
fructose.dat glucose.dat sucrose.dat
```

What is the output of:

```
for datafile in *.dat  
do  
  ls *.dat  
done
```

Saving to a file in a loop

In the same directory, what is the effect of this loop?

```
for sugar in *.dat
do
  echo $sugar
  cat $sugar > xylose.dat
done
```

1. Prints fructose.dat, glucose.dat, and sucrose.dat, and the text from sucrose.dat will be saved to a file called xylose.dat.
2. Prints fructose.dat, glucose.dat, and sucrose.dat, and the text from all three files would be concatenated and saved to a file called xylose.dat.
3. Prints fructose.dat, glucose.dat, sucrose.dat, and xylose.dat, and the text from sucrose.dat will be saved to a file called xylose.dat.
4. None of the above

Nested loops and command-line expressions

The `expr` does simple arithmetic using command-line parameters:

```
$ expr 3 + 5  
8  
$ expr 30 / 5 - 2  
4
```

Given this, what is the output of:

```
for left in 2 3  
do  
  for right in $left  
  do  
    expr $left + $right  
  done  
done
```

Scripts

1. Write a shell script that runs a command or series of commands for a fixed set of files.
2. Run a shell script from the command line.
3. Write a shell script that operates on a set of files defined by the user on the command line.
4. Create pipelines that include user-written shell scripts.

Find the longest file with a given extension

Write a shell script called `longest.sh` that takes the name of a directory and a filename extension as its parameters, and prints out the name of the file with the most lines in that directory with that extension. For example:

```
$ bash longest.sh /tmp/data pdb
```

would print the name of the `.pdb` file in `/tmp/data` that has the most lines.

Why record commands in the history before running them?

If you run the command:

```
$ history | tail -5 > recent.sh
```

the last command in the file is the `history` command itself, i.e., the shell has added `history` to the command log before actually running it. In fact, the shell always adds commands to the log before running them. Why do you think it does this?

Script reading comprehension

Joel's data directory contains three files: `fructose.dat`, `glucose.dat`, and `sucrose.dat`. Explain what a script called `example.sh` would do when run as `bash example.sh *.dat` if it contained the following lines:

```
# Script 1
echo *.*
```

```
# Script 2
for filename in $1 $2 $3
do
cat $filename
done
```

```
# Script 3
echo $*.dat
```


Finding things

1. Use `grep` to select lines from text files that match simple patterns.
2. Use `find` to find files whose names match simple patterns.
3. Use the output of one command as the command-line parameters to another command.
4. Explain what is meant by 'text' and 'binary' files, and why many common tools don't handle the latter well.

find pipeline reading comprehension

Write a short explanatory comment for the following shell script:

```
find . -name '*.dat' -print | wc -l | sort -n
```

Matching ose.dat but not temp

The `-v` flag to `grep` inverts pattern matching, so that only lines which do not match the pattern are printed. Given that, which of the following commands will find all files in `/data` whose names end in `ose.dat` (e.g., `sucrose.dat` or `maltose.dat`), but do not contain the word `temp`?

1. `find /data -name '*.dat' -print | grep ose | grep -v temp`
2. `find /data -name ose.dat -print | grep -v temp`
3. `grep -v "temp" $(find /data -name '*ose.dat' -print)`
4. None of the above.