Shell Functions
-- A How To

Shell Functions

how to – create, save, & re-use

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This book is for sale at http://leanpub.com/shellfunctions

This version was published on 2019-10-12

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Martin McGowan Sr and Jr, who edited and published "The Appleton Press" (Appleton MN) for the first 50 yrs of the last 100.

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Acknowledgments

Preface

In this book you will learn how to write, use, save, and re-use shell functions. The examples have all been worked in the **bash** shell.

The shell concepts are introductory. You may be familiar with many of the concepts. But if you haven't used shell functions, you will learn how simple and powerful they are to write, use, and save. Each chapter includes exercises to follow. Work them at your terminal to gain confidence in using shell functions.

By the time you complete the exercises in this book, you will now how to add functions to a shell library, how to recall and make them available in terminal commands or used by other functions.

Introduction

Each chapter is simple enough to require a half an hour of your time. Each is meant to be worked at a terminal window running a **bash** shell.

When you've completed these exercises, you will be comfortable with creating, using, saving and re-using shell functions.

You can explore the planned future topics for shell functions in the what's next section.

To get started, here are the few assumptions we make. That you:

- have access to an open terminal window
- can open simultaneous multiple terminal windows
- are running the **bash** shell

While it might be nice to have experience with one of the popular text editors: **notepad**, **textedit**, **vi(m)**, … or **emacs** to use for command line editing, the book includes a reference to keyboard command editing.

The text is sprinkled with links to more detailed treatment of fundamental topics. Each chapter has suggestions for experimenting Following the experiments will enable you to better grasp the shell concepts.

If you need help getting started or at any point in the material, you can [contact me here] (mailto:martymcgowan@alum.mit.edu?subject=introduction). In any case I'd appreciate your feedback.