**Environment Variables**

Environment variables are values that are accessible in an entire working environment. In Unix, these values are set in the shell when it is started. For example, your home directory is an environment variable called $HOME. If you wish to see the value of a particular environment variable, you can use the echo command like so: echo $HOME.

To set your own environment variables, you can use the export command. For example, if you wanted to create an environment variable to store the password to your server, you could issue the following:

export SERVER\_PASS=password

echo $SERVER\_PASS

However, if you issue the above command into your console, when you close the shell and open it again, your environment will no longer be present. To keep these environment variables, you will have to place the command in one of your startup files, usually

~/.bashrc

You can also remove environment variables with the unset command:

unset SERVER\_PASS

echo $SERVER\_PASS