

nixCraft → Howto → BASH Shell → Changing shell to bash on Linux, macOS, and Unix

How To Change Shell To Bash in Linux / Unix

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9 comments

ow do I switch from a ksh shell to bash on Linux or Unix system?

How to change shells on Unix-like system?



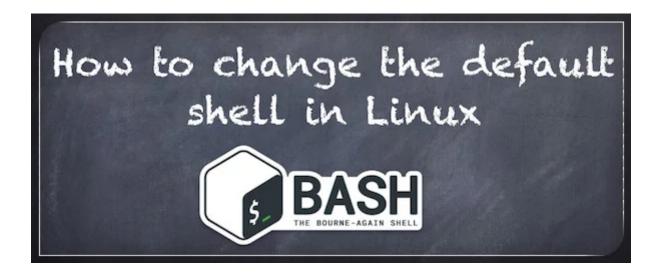
A shell is nothing but a command that provides a text-only user interface (also known as "command line interface") for Linux, MacOS, and Unix-like operating systems. Bash shell read commands such as Is, date and others typed into a terminal and then run them. That is the primary function of bash shell. To change your shell to bash use the <a href="https://change.com/change-chan

Tutorial details		
Difficulty level	<u>Easy</u>	
Root privileges	<u>Yes</u>	
Requirements	Linux terminal	
Category	<u>User Management</u>	
Prerequisites	chsh command	
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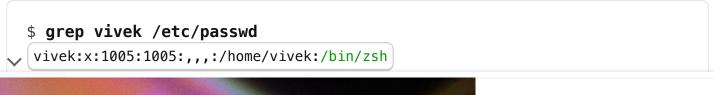




How do I find out the default shell for a user?



Type the following command to find out the default shell for a user named vivek using the grep command and /etc/passwd file:





\$ ps -p \$\$

Sample outputs:

PID TTY TIME CMD

14314 pts/9 00:00:00 zsh

OR run the following echo command:

```
$ echo "$0" zsh
```

You can also use the getent command as follows:

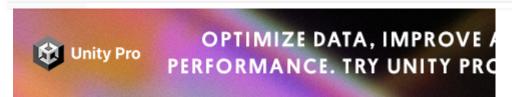
\$ getent passwd vivek

Outputs:

vivek:x:1000:1000:vivek,,,:/home/vivek:/bin/zsh

All of the above output indicates that the shell is zsh for user named vivek in Linux operating system.

How do I see what shells are available on my system?



```
# List-of acceptable shells for chpass(1).

# Ftpd will not allow users to connect who are not using

# one of these shells.

/bin/bash
/bin/csh
/bin/sh
/bin/tcsh
/bin/tcsh
/bin/zsh
/usr/local/bin/bash
```

Fig.01: How to find list of available shells on Linux or Unix or MacOS?

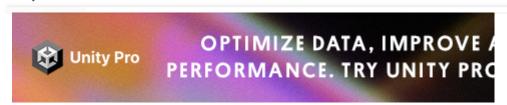
The <u>/etc/shells</u> is a text file that contains the full pathnames of valid login shells. This file is consulted by the <u>chsh command</u> and available to be queried by other programs. Hence, only use shell names and paths mentioned in this file.

How do I switch to a bash or different shell?

Type the name at the command line and then press the enter key. In this example, to change from any shell to the bash, type:

bash

How to change shells on a Linux or Unix-like systems?





You can change your default shell using the chsh ("change shell") command as follows. The syntax is:

```
$ chsh
$ chsh -s {shell-name-here}
$ sudo chsh -s {shell-name-here} {user-name-here}
$ chsh -s /bin/bash
$ chsh -s /bin/bash vivek
```

You can find full path to your shell using the following <u>type command</u> or <u>internal bash's</u> <u>command named 'command'</u>:

```
$ type -a bash
$ type -a zsh
$ type -a ksh
```

Please note that a normal user may only change the login shell for her own account. The superuser (root) may change the login shell for any account using the following syntax:

```
$ sudo chsh −s /bin/bash raj
```



```
$ su -
# chsh -s /bin/bash monika
```

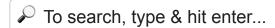
Summing up

The only restriction placed on the login shell is that the shell command name must be listed in <code>/etc/shells</code> file, unless the invoker is the superuser/root user, and then any value may be added. An account with a restricted login shell may not change her login shell. For this reason, placing /bin/rsh in /etc/shells is discouraged since accidentally changing to a restricted shell would prevent the user from ever changing her login shell back to its original value. Read the following manual pages using the <code>man command</code> or help command:

```
$ man chsh
$ chsh --help
```

About the author: Vivek Gite is the founder of nixCraft, the oldest running blog about Linux and open source. He wrote more than 7k+ posts and helped numerous readers to master IT topics. Join the nixCraft community via <u>RSS Feed</u>, <u>Email Newsletter</u> or follow on <u>Twitter</u>.

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Big Daddy Leroy

Jan 11, 2017 @ 20:58





David G

Jan 12, 2017 @ 20:21

First command doesn't show the result. 2nd, 3rd and yours command provided me the shell information. Also you can change \$USERNAME variable with the user name desired.

reply link

David G

Jan 12, 2017 @ 20:16

I have a Linux system with AD authentication; chsh command does not work for my configuration. Is there any other way to change the default change? Thanks.

reply link



Jan 12, 2017 @ 21:31

AD as in active directory? Are you using bash under Windows 10? Give us more info.

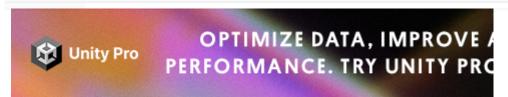
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lemonTart

Jan 22, 2021 @ 18:24

Awesome. Super helpful. Thanks.

reply link



Thanks a lot, you are a hero! greetings from Goya, Corrientes, Argentina.

reply link

Aarón Alberich

Apr 10, 2021 @ 8:36

Very useful. You solved my problem. I had a fish shell setup by accident and wanted bash so severely. I use Docker, and bash syntax is what is mostly used with Dockerfile. This page solved my problems perfectly on a CentOS Linux 7.

reply link

DivineOne

May 23, 2022 @ 19:58

does not work for linux environments using windows for authentication (ad, kerberos, sssd, etc). And if you're not using sssd (as you can easily overrride what bash is used in sssd.conf), then you're pretty f*cked. No one has a working answer to change for users not in /etc/passwd (as the users are stores in windows active directory).

reply link



May 23, 2022 @ 20:09

Edit the /etc/sssd/sssd.conf file and set the following:

default_shell = /bin/bash
override_shell = /bin/bash



sudo systemctl restart sssd

Then login using ssh or terminal and run:

echo "\$SHELL"

The loginShell attribute, which specifies the AD user's shell. Do check https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red_hat_enterprise_linux/7/html/windows_integration_guide/introduction
reply link

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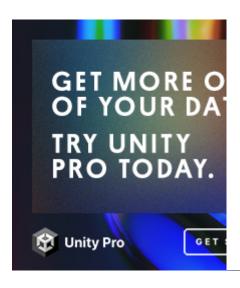
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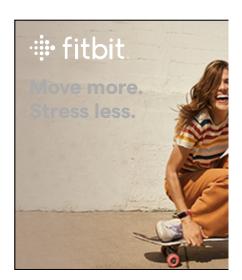


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