Shellscripting and Buildtools

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Whats all this about?

I've written a lot of code over the years:

Assembly, C and Java as an engineer

Commonlisp for my own projects

Haskell to build compilers

PostScript to draw really efficient diagrams

LATEX to publish books

...several a dozen other things too

Which language have I written the most code in?

Which language do I use to solve most tasks?

Which language do I like the least?

Shellscripting!

Normally we type commands for the terminal on a commandline...

▶ But we can automate them and stick them into scripts

Anything you have to do more than once...

Write a script for it!

- Saves a tonne of time
- Often easier than writing a full program

For example...

```
#! /bin/sh
# Solve
GREP=grep
if [ $(uname) = "OpenBSD" ]; then
# Use GNU Grep on OpenBSD
GREP=ggrep
fi
${GREP} -Pi "^${1}$" /usr/share/dict/words
```

```
~/.local/bin/knotwords 'st[^aeo]pid'
```

- stupid

```
~/.local/bin/wordbind superlite striae
```

- 7 sullies
- 7 suppers
- 7 suppler
- 7 surlier
- 8 peerless
- 8 supplest
- 8 supplier
- 8 supplies
- 8 suppress
- 8 surliest

Or for example...

```
#! /usr/bin/env bash
if [ $1 = "should" -a $2 = "also" -a $3 = "run" ]; then
shift 3
gum confirm "Run 'doas $*'?" && doas $*
elif [ $1 = "should" -a $2 = "also" -a $3 = "remove" ]; then
gum confirm "Delete '$4'?" && doas rm -fr "${4}"
else
2>&1 printf "[WARNING] You should read the commands you"
2>&1 printf "paste more carefully\n"
fi
```

Sometimes when I upgrade my computer it tells me to delete some files or run some commands:
You should also run rcctl restart pf
Copying and pasting the precise text is a pain...

► Can I just copy the whole line and run that?

(Of course I can... should I though?)

Or for a further example...

```
#! /usr/bin/env bash
# Fix kitty
/usr/local/opt/bin/fix-kitty
# Update sources
cd /usr/src && cvs -q up -Pd -A
cd /usr/ports && cvs -q up -Pd -A
cd /usr/xenocara && cvs -q up -Pd -A
```

After I upgrade my computer I need to run a couple of standard commands.

- ▶ I can never remember them
- ▶ Batch them up!

So whats this really about?

Shellscripting is about automating all those tedious little jobs

- ▶ Byzantine syntax (based on shell commands)
- Awful for debugging
- ► Requires magical knowledge
- ▶ Probably the most useful thing you'll ever learn

Luckilly we have help

Shell scripting is somewhat magical, and there are lots of gotchas...

https://www.shellcheck.net

Wonderful tool to spot unportable/dangerous things in shell scripts

- ► Commandline tool available
- ▶ Run it on *everything* you ever write
- ► shellcheck is great

So how do you write one?

Start the file with the *shebang #*! then the path to the interpreter of the script plus any arguments:

For portable POSIX shellscripts #! /bin/sh/
For less portable BASH scripts #! /usr/bin/env bash

Then

- ► chmod +x my-script.sh
- ▶ ./my-script.sh

The rest of the file will be run by the interpretter you specified

or sh my-script.sh if you don't want to/can't mark it executable.

(Hey this is also why Python scripts start #! /usr/bin/env python3)

Why env?

Hang on, you might be saying, I know that bash is always in /bin/bash... can I just put that as my interpretter path?

Yes, but...

In the beginning /bin was reserved for just system programs

- and /usr/bin for admin installed programs
- and /usr/local/bin for locally installed programs
- and /opt/bin for optional installed programs
- and /opt/local/bin for optional locally installed programs
- ▶ and ~/.local/bin for a users programs
- ...oh and sometimes they're even mounted on different disks!

This is kinda madness.

- So most Linux systems said look we'll just stick everything in /usr/bin and stop using multiple partitions
- ▶ But some said no it should be /bin, one said /Applications/, and others stuck them in /usr/bin but symlinked them to /bin
- ► And on some systems users grew fed up of the outdated system bash and compiled their own and installed it in ~/.local/bin...
- ...and ever tried using Python venv?

env

```
ENV(1)

NAME

env - set and print environment

SYNOPSIS

env [-i] [name=value ...] [utility [argument ...]]

DESCRIPTION

env executes utility after modifying the environment as specified on the command line. The option name=value specifies an environment variable, name, with a value of value.
```

What env does is look through the PATH and tries to find the program specified and runs it.

...Path?

There is an environment variable called PATH that tells the system where all the programs are:

Colon separated list of paths

If you want to alter it you can add a line like to your shell's config

export PATH="\${PATH}:/extra/directory/to/search"

Your shells config is possibly in ~/.profile but it often varies... check the man page for your \${SHELL}}
Also some shells have different syntax (e.g. fish)...

```
$ tr ':' $'\n' <<< $PATH
/home/joseph/.local/share/python/bin
/bin
/usr/bin
/sbin
/usr/sbin
/usr/Shin
/usr/Shin
/usr/local/bin
/usr/local/sbin
/home/joseph/.local/bin
/usr/local/opt/bin
/usr/local/games
/usr/local/jdk-17/bin
/home/joseph/.local/share/go/bin</pre>
```

Basic Syntax

Shell scripts are written by chaining commands together

- A; B run A then run B
- A | B run A and feed its output as the input to B
- A && B run A and if successful run B
- A | | B run A and if not successful run B

How does it know if its successful?

Programs return a 1 byte exit value (e.g. C main ends with return 0;)

- ► This gets stored into the variable \${?} after every command runs.
- 0 indicates success (usually)
- ► >0 indicates failure (usually)

This can then be used with commands like test:

```
do_long_running_command
test $? -eq 0 && printf "Command succeeded\n"
```

Or the slightly shorter:

```
do_long_running_command
[ $? -eq 0 ] && printf "Command succeeded\n"
```

Bonus puzzle

Why is this the case?

```
[ $? -eq 0 ] # works
[$? -eq 0] # doesn't work
```

Variables

All programs have variables... Shell languages are no different:

To create a variable:

GREETING="Hello World!"

(No spaces around the =)

To use a variable

echo "\${GREETING}"

If you want your variable to exist in the programs you start as an *environment variable*:

export GREETING

To get rid of a variable

unset GREETING

Well...

Variables in shell languages *tend* to act more like macro variables.

► There's no penalty for using one thats not defined.

```
NAME='Joe'
unset NAME
echo "Hello, '${NAME}'"
```

Hello, ''

If this bothers you:

```
set -o nounset
echo "${NAME:? variable 1 passed to program}"
```

(There are a *bunch* of these shell parameter expansion tricks beyond:? which can do search and replace, string length and various magic...)

Standard variables

```
${0} Name of the script
${1}, ${2}, ${3}... Arguments passed to your script
${#} The number of arguments passed to your script
${0} and ${*} All the arguments
```

Control flow

If statements and for loops, with *globbing*, are available:

```
# Or [ -x myscript.sh ];
# Or [[ -x myscript.sh ]]; if using Bash
if test -x myscript.sh; then
    ./myscript.sh
fi

for file in *.py; do
    python "${file}"
done
```

Other loops

Well...okay you only have for really... but you can do other things with it:

for n in 1 2 3 4 5; do echo -n "\${n} " done

seq 5

12345

seq -s, 5

1,2,3,4,5

12345

for n in \$(seq 5); do echo -n "\${n} " done

12345

IFS = In Field Separator
IFS=','
for n in \$(seq -s, 5); do
 echo -n "\${n} "
done

12345

Case statements too!

```
# Remove everything upto the last / from ${SHELL}{
case "${SHELL##*/}" in
  bash) echo "I'm using bash!" ;;
  zsh) echo "Ooh fancy a zsh user!" ;;
  fish) echo "Something's fishy!" ;;
  *) echo "Ooh something else!" ;;
esac
```

Basename and Dirname

In the previous example I used the " ${{VAR}#*/}$ " trick to remove everything up to the last /... Which gives you the name of the file neatly...

...but I have to look this up everytime I use it.

Instead we can use \$(basename "\${shell}") to get the same info.

```
echo "${SHELL}"
echo "${SHELL\##*/}"
echo "$(basename "${SHELL}")"
echo "$(dirname "${SHELL}")"
```

You can even use it to remove *file extensions*:

```
for f in *.jpg; do
  convert "${f}" "$(basename "${f}" .jpg).png"
done
```

Pipelines

As part of shell scripting, its often useful to build commands out of chains of other commands. For example I can use ps to list all the processes on my computer and grep to search.

► How many processes is Firefox using?

```
ps -A | grep -i firefox
```

```
44179
             SpU
                   0:29.59
                             firefox
60731
             Ιp
                   0:00.08
                             /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
                                                                -contentproc
                                                                                -appDir
57651
             IpU
                   0:00.30
                             /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
                                                                -contentproc
                                                                                {e3aaae0
78402
             SpU
                   0:08.66
                             /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
                                                                -contentproc
                                                                                ₹1ddabe3
53121
             SpU
                   0:01.79
                             /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
                                                                -contentproc
                                                                                ₹5f676d2
79118
             IpU
                   0:00.21
                             /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
                                                                -contentproc
                                                                                ₹40690c1
38067
             IpU
                   0:00.20
                             /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
                                                                -contentproc
                                                                                ₹6be551d
33456
        ??
             UqI
                   0:00.20
                             /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
                                                                -contentproc
                                                                                ₹8c295ac
82061
             R/3
                   0:00.00
                                                                               firefox
                                                                -i
                             grep
```

Too much info!

Lets use the awk command to cut it to just the first and fourth columns!

```
ps -A | grep -i firefox | awk '{print $1, $4}'
```

```
44179
       firefox
60731
       /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
57651
       /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
78402
        /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
53121
       /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
79118
       /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
       /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
38067
33456
       /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
24087
       grep
```

Why is grep in there?

Oh yes... when we search for *firefox* we create a new process with *firefox* in its commandline. Lets drop the last line

```
ps -A | grep -i firefox | awk '{print $1, $4}' | head -n -1
```

```
44179
       firefox
60731
       /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
57651
        /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
78402
        /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
53121
       /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
35192
        /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
46680
        /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
       /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
 9850
40081
        /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
44225
        /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
 3307
        /usr/local/lib/firefox/firefox
```

And really I'd just like a count of the number of processes

```
ps -A | grep -i firefox | awk '{print $1, $4}' | head -n -1 | wc -l
```

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Other piping techniques

- ► The | pipe copies standard output to standard input...
- The > pipe copies standard output to a named file... (e.g. ps -A >processes.txt, see also the tee command)
- ► The >> pipe appends standard output to a named file...
- The < pipe reads a file into standard input... (e.g. grep firefox processes.txt)
- ► The <<< pipe takes a string and places it on standard input
- You can even copy and merge streams if you know their file descriptors (e.g. appending 2>&1 to a command will run it with standard error merged into standard output)

- ► The <(echo hello) pipe is <u>completely</u> magical...
 - ► It runs the command in the parentheses outputting to a temporary file (descriptor)...
 - ► It replaces <u>itself</u> with the path to that file

So you can do things like:

```
diff <(echo Hello World) \
      <(echo Hello World | tr r R)
```

```
1c1
< Hello World
---
> Hello WoRld
```

Different shells

(Just use bash unless you care about extreme portability in which case use POSIX sh)

Typical Shells

sh POSIX shell

bash Bourne Again shell (default on Linux)

zsh Z Shell (default on Macs), like bash but with more features

ksh Korne shell (default on BSD)

Other shells

dash simplified faster bash, used for booting on Linux

Busybox sh simplified bash you find on embedded systems

Weird shells

fish More usable shell (but different incompatible syntax)

elvish Nicer syntax for scripting (but incompatible with POSIX)

nushell Nicer output (but incompatible, and weird)

One last thing...

Suppose you want to run a shellscript as a network service.

- Normally you'd have to run a webserver and do some socket programming
- ▶ None of which is ever usually available for shell scripts

Inetd

inetd is super server that can launch any program when someone connects to a socket

- ▶ stdin will be the input from the network
- stdout will be sent back on the same socket

Check out fingerd for an ancient social network built like this...

Suppose we wanted to build some code

An *awful* lot of the things we do with a computer are about *format shifting* We do this when we compile code:

- ► cc -c library.c -o library.o
- ► cc hello.c library.o -o hello

When we archive files:

▶ zip -r coursework.zip coursework

When we draw figures:

▶ dot -Tpdf flowchart.dot -O flowchart.pdf

Can we automate this?

YES!

We could write a shellscript and stick all the tasks in one place...

```
#! /usr/bin/env bash
cc -c library.c -o library.o
cc hello.c library.o -o hello
zip -r coursework.zip coursework
dot -Tpdf flowchart.dot -0 flowchart.pdf
```

But can we do better than this?

- ▶ Do we really need to recompile the C program if only our flowchart has changed?
- ► Can we generalise build patterns?

Make

Make in an ancient tool for automating builds.

- ▶ Developed by Stuart Feldman in 1976
- ► Takes *rules* which tell you how to build files
- ▶ Then follows them to build the things you need!

Two main dialects of it (nowadays):

BSD Make More old fashioned, POSIX

GNU Make More featureful, default on Linux

In practice, unless your developing a BSD every one uses GNU Make

▶ If you're on a Mac, or BSD box install GNU Make and try gmake if things don't work

Makefiles

Rules for Make are placed into a Makefile and look like the following:

If you ask make to build hello it will figure out what it needs to do:

```
$ make hello
cc -c -o library.o library.c
cc -o hello hello.c library.o
```

First line specifies how to build what from which source files

► The rest of the **TAB** indented block is a shellscript (ish)

Making changes

If you alter files... Make is smart enough to only rerun the steps you need: For example if you edit hello.c and rebuild:

```
$ make hello
cc -o hello hello.c library.o
```

But if you edit library.c it can figure out it needs to rebuild everything

```
$ make hello
cc -c -o library.o library.c
cc -o hello hello.c library.o
```

Phony targets

As well as rules for how to make files you can have *phony* targets that don't depend on files but just tell make what to do when they're run

Often a Makefile will include a phony:

all typically first rule in a file (or
 marked .default): depends on
 everything you'd like to build

clean deletes all generated files
install installs the program

```
$ make
cc -c -o library.o library.c
cc -o hello.o hello.c library.o
zip -r coursework.zip coursework
dot -Tpdf flowchart.dot -O flowchart.pdf
```

```
PHONY: all clean
all: hello coursework.zip flowchart.pdf
clean:
      git clean -dfx
hello: hello.c library.o
      cc -o hello hello.c librarv.o
library.o: library.c
      cc -c -o library.o library.c
coursework.zip: coursework
      zip -r coursework.zip coursework
flowchart.pdf: flowchart.dot
      dot -Tpdf flowchart.dot -0 flowchart.pdf
```

Pattern rules

(So far, everything **should** have worked in GNU and BSD Make... here on out we're in GNU land) What if we wanted to add an extra library to our hello programs? We could go and update the Makefile but its better to generalise!

```
CC=clang
CFLAGS=-Wall -03
.PHONY: all clean
all: hello coursework.zip flowchart.pdf
clean:
      git clean -dfx
hello: hello.c library.o extra-library.o
%.o: %.c
      $(CC) $(CFLAGS) -c -o $0 $<
%: %.c
      $(CC) $(CFLAGS) -o $0 $<
%.zip: %
      zip -r $0 $<
%.pdf: %.dot
      dot -Tpdf $< -0 $0
```

Implicit pattern rules

Actually because Make is so old, it knows about compiling C (and Fortran/Pascal...) code already:

```
.PHONY: all clean
all: hello coursework.zip flowchart.pdf
clean:
    git clean -dfx
hello: hello.c library.o extra-library.o
%.zip: %
    zip -r $@ $<
%.pdf: %.dot
    dot -Tpdf $< -0 $@</pre>
```

Lets get even more general!

Suppose we wanted to add more figures... we could add dependencies on all to build them or...

```
.PHONY: all clean
figures=$(patsubst .dot,.pdf,$(wildcard *.dot))
all: hello coursework.zip ${figures}
clean:
    git clean -dfx
hello: hello.c library.o extra-library.o

%.zip: %
    zip -r $@ $<

%.pdf: %.dot
    dot -Tpdf $< -0 $@</pre>
```

Make is crazy powerful

I love Make ...

- ► I abuse it for compiling everything
- ► For distributing reproducible science studies
- ► For building and deploying websites

Pattern rules and the advanced stuff is neat...

- ▶ ...but if you never use it I won't be offended
- Make is one of those tools that you'll come back to again and again over your careers.
- ...and there's a bunch of tricks I haven't shown you ; -)

Go and read the GNU Make Manual

► Its pretty good for a technical document

Just type make

When you get a bit of software... and you find a Makefile in there... Just type make!

▶ (and make sure your projects build in the same way!)

(Actually often you'll have to type ./configure then make)

▶ No I'm not going to teach you *autotools* don't worry!

Limitations of Make

I love Make but it has one big weakness

▶ Modern development makes extensive use of external libraries...

But Make is rubbish at dealing with them:

- Doesn't know how to fetch dependencies
- Doesn't track versions beyond source is newer than object

LanguageTool is a cool little Java grammar checker:

► How many libraries does just the core of the tool make use of?

mvn dependency:tree -D outputType=dot | dot -Tpdf

This is surely too many?



In the old days...

Traditionally you'd have to go download all the dependencies by hand...

- ► And then compile and install them
- ▶ Very tedious and error prone

So we automated it!

Modern build tooling

(Almost) every language comes with its own library management tooling

- ► Lets developers specify dependencies
- ► Tells compiler how to rebuild the project

...which means for every language you use you need to learn its build tools...

► Yay?

(Honestly, I still use Make but I'm old and cantankerous)

So now we have...

```
Commonlisp ASDF and Quicklisp
        Go Gobuild
    Haskell Cabal
      Java Ant, Maven, Gradle...
JavaScript NPM
       Perl CPAN
    Python Distutils and requirements.txt
         R CRAN
      Ruby Gem
      Rust Cargo
     LATEX CTAN and TeXlive
...and many more.
```

And they're all different

Very little similarity between any of them.

- ► You need to learn the ones you use.
- ▶ We'll play in the labs with *Maven* for Java a little bit

Maven Quickstart

```
mkdir /tmp/src
cd /tmp/src
mvn archetype:generate \
    -DgroupId=uk.ac.bristol.cs \
    -DartifactId=hello \
    -DarchetypeArtifactId=maven-archetype-quickstart \
    -DinteractiveMode=false
```

```
[INFO] Scanning for projects...
[TNFO]
[INFO] ------ org.apache.maven:standalone-pom >-----
[INFO] Building Mayen Stub Project (No POM) 1
[INFO]
[INFO] >>> mayen-archetype-plugin:3.2.1:generate (default-cli) > generate-sources @ standalone-pom >>>
[INFO]
[INFO] <<< mayen-archetype-plugin:3.2.1:generate (default-cli) < generate-sources @ standalone-pom <<<
[INFO]
[INFO]
[INFO] --- mayen-archetype-plugin:3.2.1:generate (default-cli) @ standalone-pom ---
[INFO] Generating project in Batch mode
[INFO] ------
[INFO] Using following parameters for creating project from Old (1.x) Archetype: maven-archetype-quickstart:1.0
[INFO] -----
[INFO] Parameter: basedir. Value: /tmp/src
[INFO] Parameter: package, Value: uk.ac.bristol.cs
[INFO] Parameter: groupId, Value: uk.ac.bristol.cs
[INFO] Parameter: artifactId, Value: hello
[INFO] Parameter: packageName, Value: uk.ac.bristol.cs
[INFO] Parameter: version, Value: 1.0-SNAPSHOT
[INFO] project created from Old (1.x) Archetype in dir: /tmp/src/hello
[TNF0] -----
[TNF0] BUTLD SUCCESS
[TNEO] -----
[INFO] Total time: 4.256 s
```

...and after spewing all that...

find /tmp/src -type f

- /tmp/src/hello/pom.xml
- /tmp/src/hello/src/main/java/uk/ac/bristol/cs/App.java
- /tmp/src/hello/src/test/java/uk/ac/bristol/cs/AppTest.java
- /tmp/src/hello/target/maven-status/maven-compiler-plugin/compile/default-compile/createdFiles.lst
- /tmp/src/hello/target/maven-status/maven-compiler-plugin/compile/default-compile/inputFiles.lst
- /tmp/src/hello/target/maven-status/maven-compiler-plugin/testCompile/default-testCompile/createdFiles.lst
- /tmp/src/hello/target/maven-status/maven-compiler-plugin/testCompile/default-testCompile/inputFiles.lst
- /tmp/src/hello/target/classes/uk/ac/bristol/cs/App.class
- /tmp/src/hello/target/test-classes/uk/ac/bristol/cs/AppTest.class
- /tmp/src/hello/target/surefire-reports/uk.ac.bristol.cs.AppTest.txt
- /tmp/src/hello/target/surefire-reports/TEST-uk.ac.bristol.cs.AppTest.xml
- /tmp/src/hello/target/maven-archiver/pom.properties
- /tmp/src/hello/target/hello-1.0-SNAPSHOT.jar

pom.xml

```
xsi:schemaLocation="http://maven.apache.org/POM/4.0.0_http://maven.apache.org/maven-v4_0_0.xsd"
 <modelVersion>4.0.0</modelVersion>
 <groupId>uk.ac.bristol.cs</groupId>
 <artifactId>hello</artifactId>
 <packaging>jar</packaging>
 <version>1.0-SNAPSHOT
 <name>hello</name>
 <url>http://maven.apache.org</url>
 <dependencies>
  <dependency>
   <groupId>junit</groupId>
   <artifactId>junit</artifactId>
   <version>3.8.1
   <scope>test</scope>
  </dependency>
 </dependencies>
</project>
```

And if we try and build...

[INFO] --- maven-jar-plugin:2.4:jar (default-jar) @ hello ---

mvn package

```
[INFO] Scanning for projects...
[INFO]
[INFO] Building hello 1.0-SNAPSHOT
[INFO] ------[ jar ]------
[INFO]
[INFO] --- mayen-resources-plugin:2.6:resources (default-resources) @ hello ---
[WARNING] Using platform encoding (UTF-8 actually) to copy filtered resources, i.e. build is platform dependent!
[INFO] skip non existing resourceDirectory /tmp/src/hello/src/main/resources
[TNFO]
[INFO] --- mayen-compiler-plugin:3.1:compile (default-compile) @ hello ---
[INFO] Nothing to compile - all classes are up to date
[INFO]
[INFO] --- mayen-resources-plugin: 2.6:testResources (default-testResources) @ hello ---
[WARNING] Using platform encoding (UTF-8 actually) to copy filtered resources, i.e. build is platform dependent!
[INFO] skip non existing resourceDirectory /tmp/src/hello/src/test/resources
[INFO]
[INFO] --- mayen-compiler-plugin:3.1:testCompile (default-testCompile) @ hello ---
[INFO] Nothing to compile - all classes are up to date
[INFO]
[INFO] --- maven-surefire-plugin:2.12.4:test (default-test) @ hello ---
[INFO] Surefire report directory: /tmp/src/hello/target/surefire-reports
TFSTS
Running uk.ac.bristol.cs.AppTest
Tests run: 1, Failures: 0, Errors: 0, Skipped: 0, Time elapsed: 0.018 sec
Results :
Tests run: 1, Failures: 0, Errors: 0, Skipped: 0
[TNFO]
```

Other useful commands

```
mvn test run the test suite
mvn install install the JAR into your local JAR packages
mvn clean delete everything
And if I'm being a bit snarky...
https://gradle.org A better Java build tool
```

(That doesn't work everywhere and is much worse than Maven when you try and do more complex things...)

Wrap up

Language specific build tools exist

- You should probably use them
- ▶ (but I still use good ol' make a lot more)

Makefiles let you shift things between different filetypes

► And avoid rebuilding things that don't need to be rebuilt

Shellscripts let you automate everything

- You're gonna end up writing them in anger
- Laziness is good
- Run everything through shellcheck

Aside

Sometimes you'll find you pull a project and it uses a certain build system and you just know you're going to have to spend a day fighting it. ...please don't use CMake.