



History of Command Shells

sh was written by Steve Bourne at AT&T in 1977, and is often known as the Bourne Shell. All other shells are descended from it in some fashion and it is available on all systems that have a UNIX bloodline.

csh was written by Bill Joy at UC Berkeley and released in 1978. The internal syntax is quite different than **sh** and is designed to resemble the C programming language, and hence the name.

tcsh was originally developed by Ken Greer at Carnegie Mellon University in the late 1970's; the **t** in **tc**sh stands for TENEX, an operating system that was used on some DEC PDP-10's. It has many additional features as compared with **cs**h and on virtually all modern systems **cs**h is just a link to **tc**sh.

ksh was written by David Korn at AT&T and appeared in 1982, and is often known as the Korn shell. It was designed to be a major upgrade to **sh** and is backward compatible with it, and brings in some of the features of **tc**sh, such as command line history recall. This shell has long been a favorite of many system administrators.

bash is a product of the GNU project and was created in 1987. It was designed as a major upgrade of **sh**; the name stands for Bourne Again Shell. It has full backward compatibility with **sh** and partial compatibility with **k**sh.

On all Linux systems **sh** is just a link to **bash**, but scripts which are invoked as **sh** will only work without the **bash** extensions. A similar relationship exists between **cs**h and **tc**sh.