Introduction to the Bash shell on Linux and Mac OS

Introducing Bash

Reindert-Jan Ekker

@rjekker

http://www.linkedin.com/in/rjekker



Overview

- Why bash?
- What to expect from this course
- UNIX, Linux and Mac OS
- The UNIX philosophy

Why bash?

Bash is a command line shell

- Gives you access to many UNIX utilities
- Efficiently run complex tasks
- And make them repeatable

Some use cases

- File management
- Processing data
- System administration
- Remote access
- Scripting

```
students — bash — 80×24
Macbook-Air:students reindert$ ls -l
total 56
-rw-r--r- 1 reindert staff 217 Jun 23 13:52 math_attendance
-rw-r--r- 1 reindert staff 66 Jun 23 17:36 math_grades
-rw-r--r-- 1 reindert staff 66 Jun 23 21:54 math_sorted
-rw-r--r-- 1 reindert staff 66 Jun 23 21:56 phys_sorted
-rw-r--r-- 1 reindert staff 215 Jun 23 15:10 physics_attendance
-rw-r--r- 1 reindert staff 66 Jun 23 15:13 physics_grades
-rw-r--r- 1 reindert staff 66 Jun 23 21:56 physics_grades2
Macbook-Air:students reindert$ join math_sorted phys_sorted
bruce 61 99
clark 50 55
jonathan 100 100
logan 19 45
peter 78 70
steve 43 33
tony 92 99
Macbook-Air:students reindert$ grep -i steve *grades
math_grades:steve 43
physics_grades:Steve 33
Macbook-Air:students reinderts
```

Dominant shell on UNIX

- Default on Mac OS and Linux
- Available on other UNIXes, Windows, Android, etc.

What to expect

Core features and commands

Modules:

- □ First Steps
- Basic File Management
- Using Bash More Effectively
- Filtering and Processing Text
- Jobs and Processes
- Customization

Not in this course:

- System administration
- Scripting

UNIX, Linux, Mac OS

UNIX

- Open Group: Single UNIX Specification
- □ IBM AIX, Solaris, HP/UX, Mac OS

GNU/Linux

- Linux kernel, GNU tools
- Considered "UNIX-like"

BSD:

- OpenBSD, FreeBSD, NetBSD, Mac OS
- □ BSD kernel, BSD Tools

Bash is the default shell on Mac OS and Linux

- But tools and utilities differ
- Example: GNU cp vs BSD cp
- I will focus on common features

When I mention UNIX:

I mean all of these systems in general

The UNIX philosophy

- Write programs that do one thing and do it well
- Write programs to work together.
- Write programs to handle text streams
 - because that is a universal interface.