

Introduction to the Bash shell on Linux and Mac OS

Customization

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Overview

- **Aliases**
- **Saving your customization**
- **Environment variables**
 - Prompt
 - Path
 - Editor
- **Changing your default shell**
- **Escape with \ to run non-aliased command**
 - \ls

Aliases

- **Command: alias**

- alias gerp=grep
- alias ls='ls -F'
- Don't use whitespace around =
- Alias works only on the start of the command line!
- Without arguments: lists current aliases

Bash Startup Files

- **.profile**
 - Loaded for login shell
- **.bashrc**
 - Loaded for non-login shell
- **Mac OS Terminal.app starts bash as a login shell!**
 - So make sure you have a .profile
- **Tip: read .bashrc from .profile**
 - `source ~/.bashrc`
- **There are other names for startup files:**
 - .bash_login, .bash_profile, .login
 - If needed, read: <http://goo.gl/ewJW6>
 - (http://www.gnu.org/software/bash/manual/html_node/Bash-Startup-Files.html)

Environment Variables

- **List with env**
- **Get value: prefix with \$**
 - echo \$PATH
- **Set value:**
 - no prefix
 - no whitespace around =
 - VAR="some value"
- **PS1: prompt**
- **PATH: where bash looks for executables**
 - Always append at end
 - PATH="\$PATH:~/bin"
- **EDITOR**
 - Your preferred editor
- **Export variables that are needed in subprocesses**
 - export EDITOR="nano"

Summary

- **Aliases**
- **Saving your customization**
 - .profile
 - .bashrc
- **Environment variables**
 - Prompt: PS1
 - PATH
 - EDITOR
- **Changing your default shell**
 - chsh