

How do I change the number of history commands remembered in bash?

<https://access.redhat.com/solutions/26611>

Medio Ambiente

* Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6 * Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5

Cuestión

- How do I change the number of history commands remembered in bash?

Resolución

- In bash, by default, the history commands are recorded in `~/.bash_history`. You can specify a different file other than `~/.bash_history` by using the environment variable `HISTFILE`. The number of commands to be remembered in the history can be specified by the environment variable `HISTSIZE`. For example, add the following line to your `.bashrc`:

```
export HISTSIZE=1000
```

- Then exit the current shell and launch a new one. The number of history commands to remember will be changed to 1000.

Causa Raíz

- The difference between `HISTSIZE` and `HISTFILESIZE` is that `HISTSIZE` limits the number of commands shown by the command history while `HISTFILESIZE` limits the number of commands which can be saved in `$HISTFILE`. When one exits the bash, if there are more than `$HISTSIZE` number of commands which have been executed in the single bash session, the contents of `$HISTFILE` will be replaced by the `$HISTSIZE` number of commands. If there are less than or equal to `$HISTSIZE` number of commands in the bash session, these commands will be appended to `$HISTFILE` as long as `$HISTFILESIZE` permits. If the number of commands to be appended to `$HISTFILE` plus the current existing number of commands in `$HISTFILE` is greater than `$HISTFILESIZE`, the oldest commands in `$HISTFILE` will be removed to ensure the latest commands are kept. One can also run the following command to force to append the history commands to `$HISTFILE` even though there are more than `$HISTSIZE` number of commands which have been executed in the bash session:

```
$ shopt -s histappend
```

- For more details, please refer to the bash manual page with the following command:

```
$ man bash
```