



Bash Shell Script

Part 1





BASH

THE BOURNE-AGAIN SHELL

How to create and run a script in Linux?





This is an introduction to Scripts in Linux

This is the **first part** of a series of 3 lessons. Make sure you go through them all successively to better understand the concept.

Let's get started!



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1

What is a script?

Definition and usage

What is a script?

- ◇ In **Linux**, you can **run commands** or **execute tasks manually**, but you can also use **scripts**
- ◇ A **script** is an **executable file** that contains a set of **commands to accomplish a specific task**
- ◇ It is a way to **automate tasks in Linux**
- ◇ The various commands used in a script are based on what they do to help us reach the **expected result**

Let's take some examples

What is a script?

Example 1: create a script that will **display Hello World** on the screen

Solution: In order to solve the problem, there are few steps we need to follow:

- ◇ Create the script: **# touch hello.sh**
- ◇ Give execute permission to the file: **# chmod +x hello.sh**
- ◇ Get into the file: **# vim hello.sh**
- ◇ Insert the commands to display **Hello World** and **save the file**
 - **echo "Hello World"** then **save and quit** the vim (**:wq**)
- ◇ Run the script: **./hello.sh**

What is a script?

Example 1: create a script to **install some packages in Linux**

Solution: To solve this problem, you need to:

- ◇ **Know the system on which you are** (to be able to determine the command you will use to install packages: CentOS version, Ubuntu etc.)
- ◇ **Know the names of the various packages** you want to install

Now you can follow the steps to write your script

- ◇ Create the script: **# touch pkg.sh**
- ◇ Give execute permission to the file: **# chmod +x pkg.sh**
- ◇ Get into the file: **# vim pkg.sh**

What is a script?

- ◇ Insert the **commands** to install the various packages

```
yum install finger -y
```

```
yum install curl -y
```

```
yum install zip -y
```

```
yum install vim -y
```

- ◇ Save and quit the vim (**esc :wq**)

- ◇ Run the script: **./pkg.sh**

The packages will start installing successively till the end of the script

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Useful tips in Scripting

The Shell used and the description in the script

The shell used

- ◇ In **Linux**, we have many shells and the users might use different shells.
- ◇ To **avoid some errors** while running our scripts, we need to tell the script in which shell it should run
- ◇ That is done by **precising the shell at the first line of the script** as follows: (examples for the **bash** and the **korn** shells)

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
#!/bin/ksh
```



Description in the script

- ◇ It is also very useful to put a small **description** at the beginning of the script to:
 - Explain the **task it accomplishes**,
 - Specify the **Author**
 - And the **creation date** of the script
- ◇ This is done in case in the future, **someone else might want to discuss, make a suggestion or understand the script**
- ◇ To do that, you just need to **add a # sign in front of those lines**
- ◇ When you put a **#** sign in front of a line, that **line is not interpreted as a command** but, the system considers it as a **comment in the script**



Description in the script

Let's modify the beginning of our **pkg.sh** script:

vim pkg.sh then go to the INSERT mode

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# Description: Script to install some packages
```

```
# Author: serge
```

```
# Date: May 2020
```

Save and Quit





Note:

The first line (`#!/bin/bash`) start with the `#` sign but it will be interpreted as a command

That is the only line starting with the `#` sign that will be interpreted as a command!!

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Variables in scripting

What is a variable?

Variables in scripting

- ◇ A **variable** is a **string that carries a specific value**.
- ◇ To declare or define a variable, you give it a name and a value:

VariableName=variableValue

Example: # a=serge

- ◇ We can get the value just by calling the variable with the \$ sign:
\$variableName or \${variableName}

Example: In the Terminal, declare a variable called **NAME** with the value **john** then **print its value on the screen**

Solution: # **NAME=john** then print with the command # **echo \$NAME**



Variables in scripting

Let's implement the variable concept in a script

vim variables.sh

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# Description:
```

```
# Author:
```

```
# Date:
```

```
echo "Serge is a very hardworking guy"
```

```
echo "The manager says, he will hire Serge in his new team wherever he goes"
```

```
echo "Serge likes to show off because the manager loves him "
```

```
echo "Serge will always be available when they need him"
```

Save and Quit



Variables in scripting

- ◇ Give the **execution permission**: `# chmod +x variables.sh`
- ◇ Run the script: `# ./variables.sh`
- ◇ Now if we want to change the name **Serge** to another name in this script, we will:
 - Either **look everywhere where there is Serge and replace it** with the new name (this can be very difficult if you are working with a massive code and you wanna change an item in there)
 - Or **store the name in a variable and call it whenever needed** (if that name has to change, only one line will be affected)



Variables in scripting

Let's modify our code:

vim variables.sh

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# Description:
```

```
# Author:
```

```
# Date:
```

```
NAME=Serge
```

```
echo "$NAME is a very hardworking guy"
```

```
echo "The manager says, he will hire $NAME in his new team wherever he goes"
```

```
echo "$NAME likes to show off because the manager loves him "
```

```
echo "$NAME will always be available when they need him"
```

Save and Quit
Run the Script and
you will get the
same output as
before



Variables in scripting

Now you can change the value of the variable **NAME** as you wish.

vim variables.sh

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# Description:
```

```
# Author:
```

```
# Date:
```

```
NAME=Ellys
```

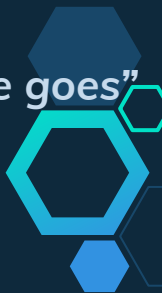
```
echo "$NAME is a very hardworking guy"
```

```
echo "The manager says, he will hire $NAME in his new team wherever he goes"
```

```
echo "$NAME likes to show off because the manager loves him "
```

```
echo "$NAME will always be available when they need him"
```

Save and Quit
Run the Script



Variables in scripting

- ◇ Variable names are **case sensitive**
- ◇ Thus, when calling a variable, you must **write it exactly the same as when you declared it.**
- ◇ If you **call a variable without declaring or defining it, nothing will be displayed.** It does not exist!
- ◇ Let's practice that on the following script: **variable.sh**



Variables in scripting

vim variables.sh

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# Description:
```

```
# Author:
```

```
# Date:
```

```
FIRST_NAME=Dianna
```

```
LAST_NAME=Kamgang
```

```
AGE=20
```

```
COLOR=PURPLE
```

```
echo "${FIRS_NAME} is a very hardworking  
girl"
```

```
echo "Her last name is ${LAST_NAME} and her  
favorite color is ${COLOR}"
```

```
echo "${FIRST_NAME} is ${AGE} years old "
```

```
echo "${NAME} is not defined"
```



Variables in scripting

- ◇ When you run the script, you can notice that:
 - The **first name did not display at the beginning** (The T was missing when calling the variable **FIRS_NAME** instead of **FIRST_NAME**)
 - The **\$NAME** is not printing anything (**that variable was not declared: it does not exist**)
- ◇ Modify the script and correct the errors

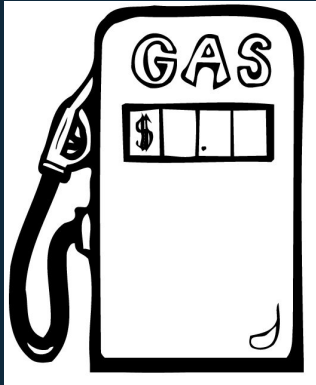


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The if statement

How do we use this statement in scripting?

The if statement



Do you want
car wash?

Yes

Which
option?

...

No

Thanks,
Goodbye



The if statement

The if statement is used **to check a specific condition in scripting**

Its **structure** is as follows:

Simple structure

```
if [condition]
then
command 1
command 2
...
command n
fi
```

Complete structure

```
if [condition]
then
command 1
command 2
...
command n
else
command 1
command 2
...
command n
fi
```



The if statement

With the if statement:

- ◇ If the condition is **True**, all the commands written under the **then** **will be executed** and the ones under the **else** **will be ignored**
- ◇ If the condition is not True (**False**), all the commands written under the **then** **will be ignored** and the ones under the **else** **will be executed**

Example: Write an if statement to check the **exit code** of a command

- ◇ Remember the **echo \$?** command helps you **to check the exit code of a command**.
- ◇ **Inside the script**, you don't need to put the **echo**, just use **\$?**

The if statement

Solution: In the **pkg.sh** script we previously created

vim pkg.sh then go into the **INSERT** mode

```
yum install finger -y
if [ $? -eq 0 ]
then
echo "finger installed successfully"
else
echo "finger did not install"
fi
```

Save and Quit

Run the script: **./pkg.sh**



The if statement

Solution: Now let's put an **error** in the command to install finger in order to check if the **else part** works correctly

vim pkg.sh then go into the **INSERT** mode

```
yuminstall finger -y
```

```
if [ $? -eq 0 ]
```

```
then
```

```
echo "finger installed successfully"
```

```
else
```

```
echo "finger did not install"
```

```
fi
```

Save and Quit

Run the script: **./pkg.sh**

```
[root@puppetagent ~]# ./pkg.sh
./pkg.sh: line 3: yuminstall: command not found
finger did not install
```



Set the if condition

How do we set the if statement condition in our script?



Set the if condition

Question: Where do `=`, `!=`, `-eq`, `-ne` come from? Where do we get the reference to know how to write the **if condition**?

Answer: from the test manual with the command `# man test`

- ◇ When you use options that are in that test manual, the bash knows exactly what to do

Let's take a look at some options here



Set the if condition

With expressions

Condition	Meaning
(EXPRESSION)	EXPRESSION is True
!EXPRESSION	EXPRESSION is False
EXPRESSION1 -a EXPRESSION2	EXPRESSION1 and EXPRESSION2 are True
EXPRESSION1 -o EXPRESSION2	EXPRESSION1 or EXPRESSION2 is True



Set the if condition

To compare Strings

Condition	Meaning
-n STRING	The STRING length is not zero
-z STRING	The STRING length is zero
STRING1 = STRING2	The two strings are equal
STRING1 != STRING2	The strings are not equal

Example: **if [-n serge]**
Then ...



Set the if condition

To compare integers

Condition	Meaning
INTEGER1 -eq INTEGER2	The 2 integers are equal
INTEGER1 -gt INTEGER2	INTEGER1 is greater than INTEGER2
INTEGER1 -le INTEGER2	INTEGER1 is less or equal to INTEGER2
INTEGER1 -lt INTEGER2	INTEGER1 is less than INTEGER2
INTEGER1 -ne INTEGER2	INTEGER1 is not equal to INTEGER2

Set the if condition

To compare files

Condition	Meaning
FILE1 -eq FILE2	The 2 files have the same device and inode number
FILE1 -nt FILE2	FILE1 newer than FILE2
FILE1 -ot FILE2	FILE1 older than FILE2
-e FILE	FILE exists
-f FILE	FILE exists and is a regular file



Set the if condition

Example on files: Write a script that creates a file called **success** in the current directory **only if it does not exist in there.**

vim file.sh

```
If [-f success]  
then  
echo "the file already exist"  
else  
Touch success  
fi
```


Run the script with **bash file.sh**





Note:

When you don't give the execute permission to a script, you can still run it with **bash scriptname.sh**



Start getting yourself use to **variables**,
conditions in scripting, when and how to
use them

Play around with the examples and do some
exercises on your own.

If you encounter some issues, do some
research before posting your questions in
the group.

See you guys in the next Part!



Thanks!

Any questions?

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