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# ♥ Hidden Unix, Git & SVN config files

Posted on [June 30, 2015](#) by [Arulkumaran Kumaraswamipillai](#)

You need to use “ls -la” to list the hidden files in your home (i.e ~) directory. These config files are “.bashrc”, “.inputrc”, “.profile”, etc. In computing, a hidden folder or hidden file is a folder or file that does not display by default when showing a directory/file listing. In Unix-like operating systems, any file or folder that starts with a dot character is to be treated as **hidden**. The **ls** command does not display them unless the **-a** flag (ls -a) is used.

**Q1.** What is a .bashrc file?

**A1.** **.bashrc** is a shell script that Bash runs whenever it is started interactively. You can put any command in that file that you could type at the command prompt.

```
1 # examples
2 export HOMEDIR=/cygdrive/c/Users/john
3 export SVN_EDITOR=vim
4 export TERM=xterm
5 export PS1='\[\e]0;\W\a\]\[\e[32m\]\u@h \[\e[33m\]'
6 export JAVA_HOME=/cygdrive/c/T00LS/java/jdk1.7.0
7 export MAVEN_HOME=/cygdrive/c/T00LS/maven/apache
8 export MAVEN_OPTS="-Xms64m -Xmx512m -XX:MaxPermS
9 export PATH=$JAVA_HOME/bin:$MAVEN_HOME/bin:~/bin
10 export JBOSS_HOME=/cygdrive/c/T00LS/jboss-eap-5.
```

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```
11 export WL_HOME=/cygdrive/c/Tools/weblogic/weblog
12
```

**Q2.** Once you make a change to .bashrc file, how do you ensure that the changes take effect in the session you are running?

**A2.** Run the **source** command.

```
1 source .bashrc
```

**Q3.** What is a .inputrc file?

**A3.** The **.inputrc** file handles keyboard mapping for specific situations.

```
1
2 # VT
3 "\e[1~": beginning-of-line
4 "\e[4~": end-of-line
5
6 # kvt
7 "\e[H": beginning-of-line
8 "\e[F": end-of-line
9
10 # rxvt and konsole (i.e. the KDE-app...)
11 "\e[7~": beginning-of-line
12 "\e[8~": end-of-line
13
14 # VT220
15 "\eOH": beginning-of-line
16 "\eOF": end-of-line
17
```

**Q4.** What is a .bash\_history file?

**A4.** History is maintained both in a file **.bash\_history** and in ram. This history can be manipulated with the command **history** command.

**Q5.** What is the difference between .profile and .bashrc?

**A5.**

**config files read by “login” shells:** E.g. when you login from another host, or login at the text console of a local unix machine. The config files are .login or .profile or .zlogin

**config files that are read by “interactive” shells:** Cygwin, etc. The config files are .bashrc, .tcshrc, .zshrc

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So, you might have a `.profile` or `.bash_profile` file invoking the `.bashrc`

```
1 # source the users bashrc if it exists
2 if [ -f "${HOME}/.bashrc" ] ; then
3     source "${HOME}/.bashrc"
4 fi
```

**Q6.** Can you list some other hidden files from your experience?

**A6.** Git, SVN, Eclipse, etc use hidden files as the meta data

## .gitignore or .svnignore

The files that are not checked into a source control system like Git or Subversion

```
1 .settings
2 .project
3 .classpath
4
```

## .svn or .git/config

The meta data files for source control systems like Subversion and Git. For example, in Git

```
1 cd .git # change directory to
2 cat config
```

You can see the origin, master, and branch details.

```
1 [core]
2     repositoryformatversion = 0
3     filemode = true
4     bare = false
5     logallrefupdates = true
6     ignorecase = true
7 [remote "origin"]
8     fetch = +refs/heads/*:refs/remotes/origin/*
9     url = ssh://git@stash.internal.myhost.com:2222
10 [branch "master"]
11     remote = origin
12     merge = refs/heads/master
13     rebase = true
```

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```

14 [branch "myapp-integration"]
15     remote = origin
16     merge = refs/heads/myapp-integration
17     rebase = true
18 [branch "bugfix/ISSUE-161"]
19     remote = origin
20     merge = refs/heads/bugfix/ISSUE-161
21     rebase = true
22

```

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## .settings, .classpath and .project

are eclipse IDE meta data files. For example, the ".classpath" file

```

1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <classpath>
3     <classpathentry kind="src" path="src/main/java"
4     <classpathentry kind="src" path="src/main/resou
5     <classpathentry kind="output" path="target/clas
6     <classpathentry kind="var" path="M2_REPO/junit/
7 </classpath>

```

**Q7.** How do you make a file hidden in Java?

**A7.**

## In Unix

The file or foldername must start with a dot (i.e. .bashrc, .git/config, etc)

## In Dos

In Java 7 or later

```

1 Files.setAttribute(path, "dos:hidden", true);
2

```

In Java 6 or older

```

1 Process p = Runtime.getRuntime().exec("attrib +H
2 p.waitFor();
3

```

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