person who is looking for the new challenging job from the reputed company. Our Unix Shell Scripting Interview Questions and Answers are very simple and have more examples for your better understanding.

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Q1) What is a shell?

Answer: The shell can be described as the command line user interface for the UNIX operating þÿsystem. As the development experts define shell is both command and s basically used to control the execution of the system.

Q2) Describe the shell types in the UNIX?

Answer: In the UNIX there are basically two primary types of shells:

Bourne shell

C shell

Q3) Who wrote the first UNIX shell in history?

Answer: Stephen R. Bourne was the person who first wrote original UNIX shell back in 1970 when he was working as an employee at the AT&T.

Q4) What is shell scripts?

Answer: The shell scripts are the list of commands that are organized in a way to execute a program in UNIX. Generally, shell scripts contain; comments, followed by the # sign and further describing the execution steps.

Q5) How do you create shortcuts in the Linux?

Answer: It is done through the built-in links in the Linux which are also known as:

Hard links

Soft links

Q6) Explain the difference between soft and hard links?

Answer: The most common difference between the soft and hard link is, a hard link is a direct reference to the file in UNIX. However, on the other hand, the soft link is the name refers to the file which means they point out files using their names.

Q7) Can you link directories to soft links?

Answer: Yes, you can link directories to the soft links as the file system structure supports them.

Q8) How do you know if you have the soft or hard link?

Answer: The soft link commonly known as the symbolic is the original copy of the file while the hard link is the perfect replica of the original file. So, if you delete the original copy from the þÿ s y s t e m   t h e n   t h e   s o f t   l i n k   w o n   t   h a v e   a n y   v a l u e   b u t   t h e   c a s e   i s   r i g h t   o p p

Q9) How hard links are used in the UNIX?

Answer: What hard links do on an immediate basis is to break down the file system structure to process the information. Unlike soft links, hard links cannot be spanned across the file system.

Q10) How will you find out which command you are currently using?

þÿ A n s w e r :   I t   c a n   b e   e a s i l y   d o n e   u s i n g   t h e   e c h o $ S H E L L   i n   t h e   s c r i p t i n g   l a

Q11) Do hard and soft link shares the same Inode?

Answer: Yes, both hard link and soft link share the same inode.

Q12) Do hard link work even after deleting the soft link?

Answer: Yes, the hard will work even after you end up deleting the soft file. As they are a perfect mirror copy of soft link, you can access the file until the links to the file are do not end up on zero.

Q13) Can you link directories to hard links?

Answer: No, you cannot link directories to hard links and the reason behind it is quite technical.
þÿ For now, you can learn that directories don t fit into the system and ess
order to protect the file system structure, directories are avoided link with hard links.

Q14) What are the benefits of using shell scripting?

Answer: The key benefits users will receive from shell scripting are:

- You can create your own commands for the program
- You can put some tasks on automatic execution
- You can automate administration tasks
- You can save time and money

Q15) Do you need to use a special compiler for executing shell program?

Answer: No, there is no need to use the personal compiler to execute the shell program as the shell itself can interpret the command and executes them.

Q16) What is the base of the Unix shell?

Answer: The Unix shells work upon the principle that it cannot only accept the commands from the keyboards but also from the files.

Q17) Can you modify the file permissions?

Answer: Yes, you can easily modify the file permission using the umask.

Q18) Describe the shell variables?

Answer: Shell variables play a significant role in the shell scripting or programming by storing and manipulating the information within the shell program.

Q19) Write down the types of shell variables?

Answer: There are basically two types of shell variables known as:

Unix defined variables: these are known as standard variables that are defined in Capital letters.

User-defined variables: These are user variables and usually defined in lower letters.

Q20) What is the average lifespan of a variable in the shell?

Answer: The lifespan of a variable is very small and is valid until the execution.

Q21) Can you make a variable unchangeable? If yes, then explain?

Answer: Yes, a variable can be made unchangeable and this can be accomplished using readonly. For instance, if you wish to keep the value of the variable a, 10 then you can do it with readonly.

Q22) How you can completely remove variables from the shell?

Answer: You can completely remove all the variables using the unset command in the shell.

Q23) What are the security provisions provided by the Unix to protect the system?

Answer: In order to protect valuable information and files, Unix provides three key security provisions:

It provides a unique ID and password to its every user so; no unauthorized access can be granted to anyone.

On each file, it offers read, writes and execute permission so, the user can grant permission he or she thinks is necessary to the third party.

Lastly the Unix offers security through the encryption which is one of the best ways to secure your file and data.

Q24) What are the top three significant editors in Unix?

Answer: Ed, vi and ex are the three significant editors that are available in almost every version of UNIX.

Q25) Write down modes of operations in Vi editors and describe them?

Answer: Three significant modes of operation Vi include:

Insert mode: this mode will allow you to insert edit the existing text or add the new text in the command line.

Command mode: in this mode, you can use the keyboard to make all the commands.

The ex-command mode: with this mode, you can enter the command in the command line.

Q26) Describe the role of echo in the shell scripting?

Answer: Echo is the built-in command of the shell that is used to write arguments in standard output.

Q27) What is the alternative command for the echo?

Answer: tput is used as an alternative command for the echo in the shell scripting.

Q28) What IFS denotes in the shell?

Answer: The term IFS stands for the Internal field separator and it is one of the most crucial variables of the shell scripting. It has space, tab, and line as the default value.

Q29) What is break statement why do we use it?

Answer: The break refers to the command that is used whenever the user wants to directly jump out of the loop rather than following the path which leads back to the control command. Every single time break statement takes place in the program, the control automatically gets passed after the first line of command.

Q30) Which command you will use to find out the run time?

Answer: Uptime is used to find out how long the system has been running.

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