

Bash scripting cheatsheet



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ads via Carbon

Introduction	Example	Variables
<p>This is a quick reference to getting started with Bash scripting</p> <p>Learn bash in y minutes (learnxinyminutes.com)</p> <p>Bash Guide (mywiki.woledge.org)</p> <p>Bash Hackers Wiki (wiki.bash-hackers.org)</p>	<pre>#!/usr/bin/env bash name="John" echo "Hello \$name!"</pre> <p>String quotes</p> <pre>name="John" echo "Hi \$name" #=> Hi John echo 'Hi \$name' #=> Hi \$name</pre>	<pre>name="John" echo \$name # see below echo "\$name" echo "\${name}!"</pre> <p>Generally quote your variables unless you know for sure they are not empty</p>
Conditional execution	Shell execution	Functions
<pre>git commit && git push git commit echo "Commit failed"</pre>	<p>See Command substitution</p>	<pre>get_name() { echo "John" } echo "You are \$(get name)"</pre>
Conditionals	Strict mode	Brace expansion
<pre>if [[-z "\$string"]]; then echo "String is empty" elif [[-n "\$string"]]; then echo "String is not empty" fi</pre> <p>See: Conditionals</p>	<pre>set -euo pipefail IFS=\$'\n\t'</pre> <p>See: Unofficial bash strict mode</p>	<pre>echo {A,B}.js</pre> <pre>{A,B}</pre> <pre>{A,B}.js</pre> <pre>{1..5}</pre> <p>See: Brace expansion</p>

Parameter expansions

Basics	Substitution	Comments
<pre>name="John" echo "\${name}" echo "\${name/J/j}" #=> "john" (substitution) echo "\${name:0:2}" #=> "Jo" (slicing) echo "\${name:2}" #=> "Jo" (slicing) echo "\${name:-1}" #=> "Joh" (slicing) echo "\${name:(-1)}" #=> "n" (slicing from right) echo "\${name:(-2):1}" #=> "h" (slicing from right) echo "\${food:-Cake}" #=> \$food or "Cake"</pre>	<pre>\${foo%suffix} \${foo%prefix} \${foo%*suffix} \${foo/%suffix} \${foo##prefix} \${foo/#prefix}</pre>	<pre># Single line comment : ' This is a multi line comment '</pre>
		Substrings

<pre>length=2 echo "\${name:0:length}" #=> "Jo"</pre>	<pre>\${foo/from/to}</pre>	<pre>\${foo:0:3}</pre>
	<pre>\${foo//from/to}</pre>	<pre>\${foo:(-3):3}</pre>
See: Parameter expansion	<pre>\${foo/%from/to}</pre>	Length
<pre>str="/path/to/foo.cpp" echo "\${str%.cpp}" # /path/to/foo echo "\${str%.cpp}.o" # /path/to/foo.o echo "\${str%/*}" # /path/to echo "\${str##*.}" # cpp (extension) echo "\${str##*/}" # foo.cpp (basepath) echo "\${str#*/}" # path/to/foo.cpp echo "\${str##*/}" # foo.cpp echo "\${str/foo/bar}" # /path/to/bar.cpp</pre>	<pre>\${foo/#from/to}</pre>	
	Manipulation	<pre>str="HELLO WORLD!" echo "\${str,}" #=> "hELLO WORLD!" (lowercase 1st letter) echo "\${str,,}" #=> "hello world!" (all lowercase) str="hello world!" echo "\${str^}" #=> "Hello world!" (uppercase 1st letter) echo "\${str^^}" #=> "HELLO WORLD!" (all uppercase)</pre>
		<pre>\${foo:-val}</pre>
		<pre>\${foo:=val}</pre>
		<pre>\${foo:+val}</pre>
		<pre>\${foo:?message}</pre>
		Omitting the : removes the (non)nu
<pre>src="/path/to/foo.cpp" base=\${src##*/} #=> "foo.cpp" (basepath) dir=\${src%\$base} #=> "/path/to/" (dirpath)</pre>		

Loops

Basic for loop

```
for i in /etc/rc.*; do
  echo "$i"
done
```

C-like for loop

```
for ((i = 0 ; i < 100 ; i++)); do
  echo "$i"
done
```

Ranges

```
for i in {1..5}; do
  echo "Welcome $i"
done

With step size

for i in {5..50..5}; do
  echo "Welcome $i"
done
```

Reading lines

```
while read -r line; do
  echo "$line"
done <file.txt
```

Forever

```
while true; do
  ...
done
```

Functions

Defining functions

```
myfunc() {
  echo "hello $1"
}

# Same as above (alternate syntax)
function myfunc() {
  echo "hello $1"
}

myfunc "John"
```

Returning values

```
myfunc() {
  local myresult='some value'
  echo "$myresult"
}

result=$(myfunc)
```

Raising errors

```
myfunc() {
  return 1
}

if myfunc; then
  echo "success"
else
  echo "failure"
fi
```

Arguments

```
 $#
 $*
 $@
 $1
```

\$_

Note: \$@ and \$* must be quoted in order to perform as described. Otherwise, they do exactly the same. See [Special parameters](#).

Conditionals

Conditions

File conditions

Example

Note that [[is actually a command/program that returns either 0 or 1, so it can be used as condition, see examples.	[[-e FILE]]	<pre># String if [[-z "\$string"]]; then echo "String is empty" elif [[-n "\$string"]]; then echo "String is not empty" else echo "This never happens" fi # Combinations if [[X && Y]]; then ... fi # Equal if [["\$A" == "\$B"]] # Regex if [["A" =~ .]] if ((\$a < \$b)); then echo "\$a is smaller than \$b" fi if [[-e "file.txt"]]; then echo "file exists" fi</pre>
[[-z STRING]]	[[-r FILE]]	
[[-n STRING]]	[[-h FILE]]	
[[STRING == STRING]]	[[-d FILE]]	
[[STRING != STRING]]	[[-w FILE]]	
[[NUM -eq NUM]]	[[-s FILE]]	
[[NUM -ne NUM]]	[[-f FILE]]	
[[NUM -lt NUM]]	[[-x FILE]]	
[[NUM -le NUM]]	[[FILE1 -nt FILE2]]	
[[NUM -gt NUM]]	[[FILE1 -ot FILE2]]	
[[NUM -ge NUM]]	[[FILE1 -ef FILE2]]	
[[STRING =~ STRING]]		
((NUM < NUM))		
More conditions		<div>Not</div> <div>And</div> <div>Or</div>
[[-o noclobber]]		
[[! EXPR]]		
[[X && Y]]		
[[X Y]]		

Arrays

Defining arrays

```
Fruits=('Apple' 'Banana' 'Orange')

Fruits[0]="Apple"
Fruits[1]="Banana"
Fruits[2]="Orange"
```

Working with arrays

```
echo "${Fruits[0]}"      # Element #0
echo "${Fruits[-1]}"     # Last element
echo "${Fruits[@]}"      # All elements, space-separated
echo "${#Fruits[@]}"     # Number of elements
echo "${#Fruits}"        # String length of the 1st element
echo "${#Fruits[3]}"     # String length of the Nth element
echo "${Fruits[@]:3:2}"  # Range (from position 3, up to 2 elements)
echo "${!Fruits[@]}"     # Keys of all elements, space-separated
```

Operations

Iteration

<pre>Fruits=("\${Fruits[@]}" "Watermelon") # Push Fruits+=('Watermelon') # Also Push Fruits=("\${Fruits[@]/Ap*/}") # Remove by regex match unset Fruits[2] # Remove one item Fruits=("\${Fruits[@]}") # Duplicate Fruits=("\${Fruits[@]}" "\${Veggies[@]}") # Concatenate lines=(`cat "logfile"`) # Read from file</pre>	<pre>for i in "\${arrayName[@]"; do echo "\$i" done</pre>
--	---

Dictionaries

Defining

<pre>declare -A sounds</pre>
<pre>sounds[dog]="bark" sounds[cow]="moo" sounds[bird]="tweet" sounds[wolf]="howl"</pre>
Declares sound as a Dictionary object (aka associative array).

Working with dictionaries

<pre>echo "\${sounds[dog]}" # Dog's sound echo "\${sounds[@]}" # All values echo "\${!sounds[@]}" # All keys echo "\${#sounds[@]}" # Number of elements unset sounds[dog] # Delete dog</pre>
--

Iteration

Iterate over values
<pre>for val in "\${sounds[@]"; do echo "\$val" done</pre>
Iterate over keys
<pre>for key in "\${!sounds[@]"; do echo "\$key" done</pre>

Options

Options

<pre>set -o noclobber # Avoid overlay files (echo "hi" > foo) set -o errexit # Used to exit upon error, avoiding cascading errors set -o pipefail # Unveils hidden failures set -o nounset # Exposes unset variables</pre>

Glob options

<pre>shopt -s nullglob # Non-matching globs are removed (' shopt -s failglob # Non-matching globs throw errors shopt -s nocaseglob # Case insensitive globs shopt -s dotglob # Wildcards match dotfiles ("*.sh" = shopt -s globstar # Allow ** for recursive matches (']</pre>
Set GLOBIGNORE as a colon-separated list of patterns to be removed f

History

Commands

<pre>history</pre>
<pre>shopt -s histverify</pre>

Expansions

!\$
!*
!-n
!n

Operations

!!	Execute last command again
!!:s/<FROM>/<TO>/	Replace first occurrence of <FROM> to <TO> in most recent command
!!:gs/<FROM>/<TO>/	Replace all occurrences of <FROM> to <TO> in most recent command
!\$:t	Exp !\$:n
!\$:h	Ex !^
!! and !\$ can be replaced with any valid expansion.	!\$
	!!:n-m
	!!:n-\$

!! can be replaced with any valid expansion i.e. !cat, !-2, !42, etc.

Miscellaneous

Numeric calculations

```
$(a + 200)      # Add 200 to $a

$((RANDOM%200))  # Random number 0..199

declare -i count # Declare as type integer
count+=1         # Increment
```

Inspecting commands

```
command -V cd
#=> "cd is a function/alias/whatever"
```

Trap errors

```
trap 'echo Error at about $LINENO' ERR

or

traperr() {
  echo "ERROR: ${BASH_SOURCE[1]} at about ${BASH_LINENO[0]}"
}

set -o erretrace
trap traperr ERR
```

Source relative

```
source "${0%/*}/../share/foo.sh"
```

Transform strings

-c	Operations apply to characters not in the given set
-d	Delete characters
-s	Replaces repeated characters with single occurrence
-t	Truncates
[:upper:]	All upper case letters
[:lower:]	All lower case letters
[:digit:]	All digits
[:space:]	
[:alpha:]	All letters
[:alnum:]	All letters and digits
Example	

Subshells

```
(cd somedir; echo "I'm now in $PWD")
pwd # still in first directory
```

Redirection

```
python hello.py > output.txt      # stdout to (file)
python hello.py >> output.txt      # stdout to (file)
python hello.py 2> error.log       # stderr to (file)
python hello.py 2>&1                # stderr to stdout
python hello.py 2>/dev/null        # stderr to (null)
```

```
python hello.py < foo.txt          # feed foo.txt to stdin for
diff <(ls -r) <(ls)                # Compare two stdout with
```

Case/switch

```
case "$1" in
  start | up)
    vagrant up
    ;;

  *)
    echo "Usage: $0 {start|stop|ssh}"
    ;;
esac
```

printf

```
printf "Hello %s, I'm %s" Sven Olga
#=> "Hello Sven, I'm Olga"
```

Directory of script

```
dir=${0%/*}
```

Getting options

```
while [[ "$1" =~ ^- && ! "$1" == "--" ]]; do case $1 in
  -v | --version )
    echo "$version"
```

```
echo "Welcome To Devhints" | tr '[:lower:]' '[:upper:]'
WELCOME TO DEVHINTS
Heredoc

cat <<END
hello world
END
```

```
exit
;;
-s | --string )
  shift; string=$1
  ;;

if [[ "$1" == '--' ]]; then shift; fi
```

Reading input

```
echo -n "Proceed? [y/n]: "
read -r ans
echo "$ans"

The -r option disables a peculiar legacy behavior with backslashes.

read -n 1 ans    # Just one character
```

Special variables

\$?
\$!
\$\$
\$0
\$_
\${PIPESTATUS[@]}

Go to previous directory

```
pwd # /home/user/foo
cd bar/
pwd # /home/user/foo/bar
cd -
pwd # /home/user/foo
```

Check for command’s result

Grep check

```
if grep -q 'foo' ~/.bash_history; then
  echo "You appear to have typed 'foo' in the past"
fi
```

```
if ping -c 1 google.com; then
  echo "It appears you have a working internet connection"
fi
```

Also see

Bash-hackers wiki (bash-hackers.org)
Shell vars (bash-hackers.org)
Learn bash in y minutes (learnxinyminutes.com)
Bash Guide (mywiki.woledge.org)
ShellCheck (shellcheck.net)

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