



ASSIGNMENT #6

Introduction to Linux

1. Advanced shell variables

(Adapted from “Bash Guide for Beginners” by Dr. M. Garrels, chapter 10.)

Write a script that does the following:

- Display the name of the script being executed;
- Display the first, third, and tenth argument given to the script;
- Display the total number of arguments passed to the script;
- If there were more than three positional parameters, use shift to move all the values 3 places to the left;
- Print the values of the remaining positional parameters;
- Print the number of arguments.

2. Repetition constructs

1) Reconsider the exercise from assignment 5.2 where you wrote a Bash script with options. Writing that script with conditional constructs only wasn't the most elegant. Rewrite the script using a repetition construct (for looping over the arguments; you still need a conditional construct too).

2) Can you explain why it is so important to put the variables in between double quotes in the example from section 9.4.2 in the textbook?

3) Write a script similar to the one in section 9.5.1 of the textbook, but think of a way of quitting after the user has executed 3 loops.

3. Functions

1) Add a function to your `.bashrc` config file that automates the generation of man pages in PDF format. The result should be that you type something like `printman <command>`, upon which a PDF file of the first appropriate man page is created in the directory specified by the `$PDFMAN` environment variable. If that variable doesn't exist, an error message should be printed to `stderr` and the function should return error status 1.

2) Go back one more time to the script from assignment 5.2. Create a function for each task that the script may possibly execute. Call the functions from the options parsing code.