Configuring the Environment

`code|cademy`

Command line environment

The *environment* of the command line refers to the settings and preferences of the current user. It enables users to set greetings, `alias` commands, variables, and much more.

Source Bash Profile

All the commands in **~/.bash_profile** are executed with the shell command `source ~/.bash_profile`. So when changes are made to **~/.bash_profile**, run this command to activate the changes in the current session.

Alias

The shell command `alias` is used to assign commonly used commands to shortcuts (or aliases). The assigned commonly used command should be wrapped in double quotes.

```
# The following command creates an alias `pd`
for the command `pwd`

alias pd="pwd"
```

`history` Command

The `history` shell command is used to get a history of commands (also known as "events") that were executed in the current session. The command also allows us to perform operations on this list of commands that have been executed, such as selecting or manipulating a command in the history.

Environment Variables

Variables that can be used across terminal commands are called *environment variables*. They also hold information about the shell's environment.

Export command

The `export` command makes a given variable available to all child sessions initiated from the current session.

```
# This command will make the environment
variable USER available
# to all child sessions with the value "Jane
Doe".
export USER="Jane Doe"
```

HOME Environment Variable in Unix Systems

`HOME` is an environment variable present in command line environments. It is used to get the path to the current user's home directory. This makes it easy for programs to access the home directory when needed.

```
# To show the path of the home directory use
the following command:

echo $HOME
```

Shell Command env

For Unix-based systems like Mac OS and Linux (not Windows), the shell command `env` returns a list of environment variables for the current user.