Module 3 Cheat Sheet - Introduction to Shell Scripting

Bash shebang
#!/bin/bash
Get the path to a command
which bash
Pipes, filters, and chaining
Chain filter commands together using the pipe operator:
ls sort -r
Pipe the output of manual page for 1s to head to display the first 20 lines:
man 1s head -20
Use a pipeline to extract a column of names from a csv and drop duplicate names:
cut -d "," -f1 names.csv sort uniq
Working with shell and environment variables:

List all shell variables:

set

Define a shell variable called my_planet and assign value Earth to it:	
my_planet=Earth	
Display value of a shell variable:	
echo \$my_planet	
Reading user input into a shell variable at the command line:	
read first_name	
Tip: Whatever text string you enter after running this command gets stored as the value of the variable first_name.	
List all environment variables:	
env	
Environment vars: define/extend variable scope to child processes:	
export my_planet export my_galaxy='Milky Way'	

about:blank 2/10

Metacharacters

Comments #:

The shell will not respond to this message

Command separator ;:

echo 'here are some files and folders'; ls

File name expansion wildcard *:

ls *.json

Single character wildcard ?:

ls file_2021-06-??.json

Quoting

Single quotes ' $\dot{}$ - interpret literally:

echo 'My home directory can be accessed by entering: echo \$HOME'

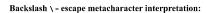
$\label{lem:conditional} \textbf{Double quotes ""-interpret literally, but evaluate metacharacters:}$

echo "My home directory is \$HOME"

about:blank 3/10

7/16/25, 5:02 PM

about:blank



echo "This dollar sign should render: \\$"

I/O Redirection

Redirect output to file and overwrite any existing content:

echo 'Write this text to file $x' \rightarrow x$

Append output to file:

echo 'Add this line to file x' >> x

Redirect standard error to file:

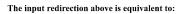
bad_command_1 2> error.log

Append standard error to file:

bad_command_2 2>> error.log

Redirect file contents to standard input:

\$ tr "[a-z]" "[A-Z]" < a_text_file.txt</pre>



\$cat a_text_file.txt | tr "[a-z]" "[A-Z]"

Command Substitution

Capture output of a command and echo its value:

THE_PRESENT=\$(date)
echo "There is no time like \$THE_PRESENT"

Capture output of a command and echo its value:

echo "There is no time like \$(date)"

Command line arguments

./My_Bash_Script.sh arg1 arg2 arg3

Batch vs. concurrent modes

Run commands sequentially:

start=\$(date); ./MyBigScript.sh ; end=\$(date)

Run commands in parallel:

 $./{\sf ETL_chunk_one_on_these_nodes.sh} \quad \& \quad ./{\sf ETL_chunk_two_on_those_nodes.sh}$

about:blank 5/10

Scheduling jobs with cron

Open crontab editor:

crontab -e

Job scheduling syntax:

m h dom mon dow command

(minute, hour, day of month, month, day of week)

Tip: You can use the * wildcard to mean "any".

Append the date/time to a file every Sunday at 6:15 pm:

15 18 * * 0 date >> sundays.txt

Run a shell script on the first minute of the first day of each month:

1 0 1 * * ./My_Shell_Script.sh

Back up your home directory every Monday at 3:00 am:

0 3 * * 1 tar -cvf my_backup_path\my_archive.tar.gz \$HOME\

Deploy your cron job:

Close the crontab editor and save the file.

List all cron jobs:

crontab -1

Conditionals

if-then-else syntax:

```
if [[ $# == 2 ]]
then
  echo "number of arguments is equal to 2"
else
  echo "number of arguments is not equal to 2"
fi
```

'and' operator &&:

```
if [ condition1 ] && [ condition2 ]
```

'or' operator ||:

```
if [ condition1 ] || [ condition2 ]
```

Logical operators

Operator	Definition
==	is equal to
!=	is not equal to
<	is less than
>	is greater than
<=	is less than or equal to
>=	is greater than or equal to

Arithmetic calculations

about:blank 7/10

Integer arithmetic notation:

\$(())

Basic arithmetic operators:

Symbol	Operation
+	addition
-	subtraction
*	multiplication
/	division

Display the result of adding 3 and 2:

echo \$((3+2))

Negate a number:

echo \$((-1*-2))

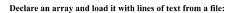
Arrays

Declare an array that contains items 1, 2, "three", "four", and 5:

my_array=(1 2 "three" "four" 5)

Add an item to your array:

my_array+="six" my_array+=7



```
my_array=($(echo $(cat column.txt)))
```

for loops

Use a for loop to iterate over values from 1 to 5:

```
for i in {0..5}; do
    echo "this is iteration number $i"
done
```

Use a for loop to print all items in an array:

```
for item in ${my_array[@]}; do
  echo $item
done
```

Use array indexing within a for loop, assuming the array has seven elements:

```
for i in {0..6}; do
echo ${my_array[$i]}
```

Authors

Jeff Grossman Sam Propupchuk

Other Contributors

Rav Ahuja

about:blank 9/10



about:blank 10/10