

Examine Input/Output in the Linux Shell

Skills Acquired:

- Generate output with the `echo` command
- Generate output with the `expr` command
- Clear the Bash shell with the `clear` command

Scenario:

As a security professional, it's important to understand the concept of communicating with your computer via the shell.

In this scenario, you have to input a specified string of text that you want the shell to return as output. You'll also need to input a few mathematical calculations so the OS (operating system) can return the result.

Task 1. Generate output with the echo command

1. Type `echo hello` into the shell and press **ENTER**.
2. Rerun the command, but include quotation marks around the string data. Type `echo "hello"` into the shell and press **ENTER**.
3. Use the `echo` command to output your name to the shell.

```
analyst@80ce7688a833:~$ echo hello
hello
analyst@80ce7688a833:~$ echo "hello"
hello
analyst@80ce7688a833:~$ echo "Jeff"
Jeff
analyst@80ce7688a833:~$ █
```

Task 2. Generate output with the expr command

In this task, you'll use the `expr` command to generate some additional output in the Bash shell.

Imagine that the system has shown you that you have 32 alerts, but only 8 required action. You want to calculate how many alerts are false positives so that you can provide feedback to the team that configures the alerts.

To do this, you need to subtract the number of alerts that require action from the total number of alerts.

1. Calculate the number of false positives using the `expr` command.
2. Type `expr 3500 * 12` into the shell and press **ENTER**.

```
analyst@80ce7688a833:~$ expr 32 - 8
24
analyst@80ce7688a833:~$ expr 3500 * 12
42000
analyst@80ce7688a833:~$ 
```

Task 3. Clear the Bash shell

In this task, you'll use the `clear` command to clear the Bash shell of all existing output.

Type `clear` into the shell and press **ENTER**.