



Linux Shell Scripting Tutorial (LSST) v1.05r3

Chapter 2: Getting started with Shell Programming

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Rules for Naming variable name (Both UDV and System Variable)

(1) Variable name must begin with Alphanumeric character or underscore character (_), followed by one or more Alphanumeric character. For e.g. Valid shell variable are as follows

HOME

SYSTEM_VERSION

vech

no

(2) Don't put spaces on either side of the equal sign when assigning value to variable. For e.g. In following variable declaration there will be no error

```
$ no=10
```

But there will be problem for any of the following variable declaration:

```
$ no =10
```

```
$ no= 10
```

```
$ no = 10
```

(3) Variables are case-sensitive, just like filename in Linux. For e.g.

```
$ no=10
```

```
$ No=11
```

```
$ NO=20
```

```
$ nO=2
```

Above all are different variable name, so to print value 20 we have to use `$ echo $NO` and not any of the following

```
$ echo $no # will print 10 but not 20
```

```
$ echo $No# will print 11 but not 20
```

```
$ echo $nO# will print 2 but not 20
```

(4) You can define NULL variable as follows (NULL variable is variable which has no value at the time of definition) For e.g.

```
$ vech=
```

```
$ vech=""
```

Try to print it's value by issuing following command

```
$ echo $vech
```

Nothing will be shown because variable has no value i.e. NULL variable.

(5) Do not use `?`, `*` etc, to name your variable names.

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