Navigating the Shell

A brownbag workshop at



by Seth House

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Presentation Scope: Just the Basics

How not to look like your parents trying to use a computer.

Archaic mappings and semantics for things you already know how to do.

Key Description

Key	Description
^a	Home

Key	Description
^a	Home
^ e	End

Key	Description
^a	Home
^ e	End
ΛW	kill word

Key	Description
^a	Home
^e	End
^w	kill word
^u	kill line

Key	Description	
^a	Home	
^e	End	
۸w	kill word	
^u	kill line	
^ y	yank last kill (i.e., paste)	

There and back again: A UNIX Tale.

Command

Description

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cd	Go to \$HOME

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••	Up one directory

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cd	Go to \$HOME
cd -	Toggle between \$0LDPWD and \$PWD
	Up one directory
git checkout -	Toggle between branches

How to never, ever, ever type (or remember) any command after the first time.

Tip

Description

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Description
Start searching history
Next match
Prev match (but won't work without stty -ixon)
Substitute the last command
Substitute the last argument from the last command

(We'll come back to this one.)

Completion

How to never blindly stumble around the filesystem. (And self-discover some program arguments too.)

Tip Description

Completion

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Tip	Description
Tab	Show completion options

Completion

How to never blindly stumble around the filesystem. (And self-discover some program arguments too.)

Tip	Description
Tab	Show completion options
(Sorta)	

Configuration

How to ruin your ability to ever use anyone else's shell. (And ruin their ability to use your shell too.)

• Readline

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(Works in irb too!)

```
$if Ruby
...ruby-specific stuff here...
$endif
```

Readline

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• Temporary override (like on a shared server):

INPUTRC=/path/to/.inputrc-youruser exec bash

```
# Complete by showing an ephemeral menu instead of printing matches.
TAB: menu-complete
# Enable shift-tab to complete backward.
"\e[Z": menu-complete-backward
# Show completion options on first tab; begin cycling on second tab.
set menu-complete-display-prefix on
# Show all available completion options on second tab.
set show-all-if-ambiguous on
set show-all-if-unmodified on
# Avoid duplicating text when completing an option mid-word.
set skip-completed-text on
# Use colors in the completion options.
set colored-stats on
# Treat symbols as word delimiters too.
set bind-tty-special-chars off
# Expand C-w to use more than just whitespace as a delimeter.
"\C-w": backward-kill-word
# Complete the current line from the shell history.
"\C-p": history-search-backward
"\C-n": history-search-forward
```

Extras

\$HOME/.bashrc

\$HOME/.bashrc

```
PS1='\w \$ '
alias ls='ls -F --color'
alias ll='ls -l'
```

Git Prompt Status & Completion

Homebrew, XCode, Apple's "Command Line Tools": It's probably already on your system somewhere.

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```
% find / -name 'git-prompt\.sh' 2>/dev/null
/usr/local/etc/bash_completion.d/git-prompt.sh
/Library/Developer/CommandLineTools/usr/share/git-core/git-prompt.sh
/Applications/Xcode.app/Contents/Developer/usr/share/git-core/git-prompt.
```

```
% find / -name 'git-completion\.bash' 2>/dev/null
/usr/local/etc/bash_completion.d/git-completion.bash
/Library/Developer/CommandLineTools/usr/share/git-core/git-completio
/Applications/Xcode.app/Contents/Developer/usr/share/git-core/git-co
```

\$HOME/.bashrc

```
source /usr/local/etc/bash_completion.d/git-prompt.sh
source /usr/local/etc/bash_completion.d/git-completion.bash

GIT_PS1_SHOWCOLORHINTS=1
GIT_PS1_SHOWDIRTYSTATE=1
GIT_PS1_SHOWSTASHSTATE=1
GIT_PS1_SHOWUPSTREAM="verbose"

function __git_ps1_sha() { git rev-parse --short HEAD 2>/dev/null; }

PROMPT_COMMAND='__git_ps1 "\w" " \$ " " ($(__git_ps1_sha) %s)"'
```

Discussion!