Shell Scripting Basics - Cheat Sheet

1. What is a Shell Script?

A shell script is a text file containing a sequence of shell commands. It is used to automate tasks such as backups, system monitoring, and administrative routines.

Example:

#!/bin/bash

echo "Welcome to Linux Administration"

2. Role of the Shebang (#!)

The shebang is the first line in a script indicating the interpreter.

Examples:

#!/bin/bash -> Use Bash

#!/bin/sh -> Use default shell

#!/usr/bin/env python3 -> Use Python 3

Without a shebang, the shell interpreter defaults to the user's current shell.

3. Bash vs Zsh + Changing Shell

Bash is the default shell on many systems, while Zsh offers more features like plugin support and improved autocompletion.

Change default shell with:

chsh -s /bin/zsh

Available shells: cat /etc/shells

4. Greet Script

#!/bin/bash

read -p "Enter your name: " user_name

echo "Hello, \$user_name!"

5. File Permissions

Permissions control script access and execution.

chmod +x script.sh -> Make executable

chmod 755 script.sh -> Set rwxr-xr-x

chown user script.sh -> Change file owner

chgrp group script.sh -> Change group ownership

Permissions: r = read, w = write, x = execute