

---

## CHAPTER 2, LAB 1: GETTING STARTED WITH bash

(15 MINUTES)

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

In this lab you will determine which shell you are running and correct mistakes on the command line. You will also learn about help the system provides in the form of man pages, the `--help` option, and the `bash help` command.

### READING

Read Sobell, Chapter 2.

### PROCEDURE

This lab manual uses the same conventions as the Sobell book. Before getting started, read “Conventions Used in This Book” (Sobell, pages 24–26) to become familiar with the conventions used in this lab manual.

Use the `script` utility (Sobell, page 62) to capture your work as you go through the steps of this lab. You will end up with a file that shows the work you have done. You can submit this file to your instructor or simply keep it for your notes.

1. Give the following command to cause the shell you are running to display its name (Sobell, page 29):

```
$ echo $0
```

2. Type some words on a command line without pressing `RETURN`. Now delete a character, a word, and the entire line as explained starting on Sobell, page 29.
3. You can use `man` (Linux manual) pages to learn about Linux utilities and other aspects of a Linux system (Sobell, page 33). Read the man page on the `man` utility to find out more about this utility.
4. Many utilities accept the `--help` option (Sobell, page 38). When called with this option, one of these utilities displays information about itself. Call the `cat` utility with the `--help` option.
5. Many utilities display a help message that is so long it scrolls off the screen. In this case you can use a pipeline (covered in a later lab; Sobell, page 60) and a pager such as `less` (Sobell, page 34, and the bottom of Sobell, page 38) to display one screen of information at a time. Call the `cp` utility, specifying the `--help` option and sending the output through a pipeline to `less`.
6. The `bash help` command (Sobell, page 39) displays information about `bash` features. Use the `bash help` command to display information about the `echo` builtin.

## DELIVERABLES

This lab gives you practice correcting mistakes on the command line and getting assistance with Linux using `man`, the `--help` option, and the `bash help` command. When you use `script` to capture your work in the lab, you can turn the resulting file in to your instructor.