

Miscellaneous: Zsh: prompts

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You can alter your zsh 'PS1', 'PS2', 'PS3' and 'PS4' prompts via the command line or your '~/.zshrc' file by resetting the value of the matching shell variable. This is e.g. '\$PS1' for the 'PS1' prompt.

E.g.:

```
user@host:~#export PS1="%m [%n] %d>"
```

Would generate a default prompt like this:

```
lowlife [jappe] /home/jappe>
```

This is how my '.zshrc' looks like:

```
----
export PS1="%m [%n] %d>"
setopt AUTOLIST
----
```

You can type the same command on the command line instead of putting it in your '~/.zshrc'.

Here are some options and explanations extracted from the 'zshparam' man page:

PS1 The primary prompt string, printed before a command is read; the default is "%m%# ".

```
%d
%/    Present working directory ($PWD).
%M    The full machine hostname.
%m    The hostname up to the first '.'.
      An integer may follow the '%' to
      specify how many components of the
      hostname are desired.
%@    Current time of day, in 12-hour,
      am/pm format.
%T    Current time of day, in 24-hour for-
      mat.
%*    Current time of day in 24-hour for-
      mat, with seconds.
%n    $USERNAME.
%w    The date in day-dd format.
%W    The date in mm/dd/yy format.
%D    The date in yy-mm-dd format.
```

PS2 The secondary prompt, printed when the shell needs more information to complete a command. Recognizes the same escape sequences as \$PS1. The default is "%_> ", which displays any shell constructs or quotation marks which are currently being processed.

PS3 Selection prompt used within a select loop. Recognizes the same escape sequences as \$PS1. The default is "?# ".

PS4 The execution trace prompt. Default is "+".

Click [here](#) to go back to the index.