Secure Scripting

**All About Linux**

# lab Solutions: Working with files in Linux

## Lab Exercise 1

1. Create a subdirectory of your home directory called xyzzy.

mkdir xyzzy

1. Make that directory your current working directory.

cd xyzzy

1. Without changing directories, list the contents of your home directory
   1. using an absolute path name for that directory; and then
   2. using a relative path name for that directory.

(Hint: The command ls *dir* lists the contents of the directory *dir*)

1. ls /home/*your-home-directory*
2. ls ..

## LAB EXERCISE 2

1. Use the command date to write the current time and date into a file called plugh in your home directory.

date > plugh

1. Execute the command “set –o noclobber” and repeat part A. What happens?

The command fails with the message “cannot overwrite existing file”. The noclobber option prevents redirection from overwriting files.

1. Execute the command “set +o noclobber” and repeat part A. What happens?

The command succeeds. This command unsets the noclobber option and so it allows redirection to overwrite files.

## LAB EXERCISE 3

The following sequence of commands lists the names of all files in the current working directory with the third character of the name being “e”:

ls > TEMP

grep ‘^..e’ < TEMP

Write the equivalent command without using any temporary files (that is, no TEMP!)

ls | grep ‘^..e’

## Bonus Lab EXERCISE

What is the name of the parent directory of the root directory “/”? Why do you think the system designers made that the parent?

The parent directory is the root directory “/” itself. The designers did this because the root directory is at the top of the file hierarchy, so it should not have a parent. But for consistency, as every directory in the system has a parent, the “..” directory, that has to be something. So, it is the root directory itself.