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Summary

The web content explains the loading order and purpose of startup files for Zsh and Bash shells, including `.bashrc`, `.bash_profile`, `.zshrc`, and others, to help users understand where to place their custom configurations for different shell environments.

Abstract

The article addresses the common confusion surrounding the various startup files used by Bash and Zsh shells, such as `.bashrc`, `.bash_profile`, `.bash_login`, `.profile`, `.zshenv`, `.zprofile`, `.zshrc`, and `.zlogin`. It details the conditions under which each file is executed, emphasizing that Bash sources different files based on whether it is operating as an interactive login shell or an interactive non-login shell. The article provides a detailed chart illustrating the execution order for these files in both Bash and Zsh environments. It advises users to place their configurations primarily in `.bashrc` for Bash and `.zshrc` for Zsh, with `.bash_profile` or `.zprofile` sourcing the respective `.rc` file for login

and that the behavior of shells can vary depending on whether they are started from a terminal emulator, a remote login, or as part of a graphical user interface session.

Opinions

- The author suggests that the historical reasons for the current state of shell initialization files are not logical, implying a preference for a more streamlined and intuitive system.
- The article implies that most users will primarily deal with non-login shells in their day-to-day use, particularly those using terminal emulators within graphical environments.
- It is the author's opinion that users should configure their shell environments with an understanding that most of their configurations should reside in `.bashrc` or `.zshrc`, with login shell configurations being a secondary concern.
- The author points out that OS X's Terminal.app behaves differently from other terminal emulators by treating new windows as login shells, which may be unexpected for users accustomed to other environments.
- The article endorses the practice of creating symbolic links from one of the login shell initialization files (`~/.bash_profile`, `~/.bash_login`, or

needed.

Zsh/Bash startup files loading order (.bashrc, .zshrc etc.)

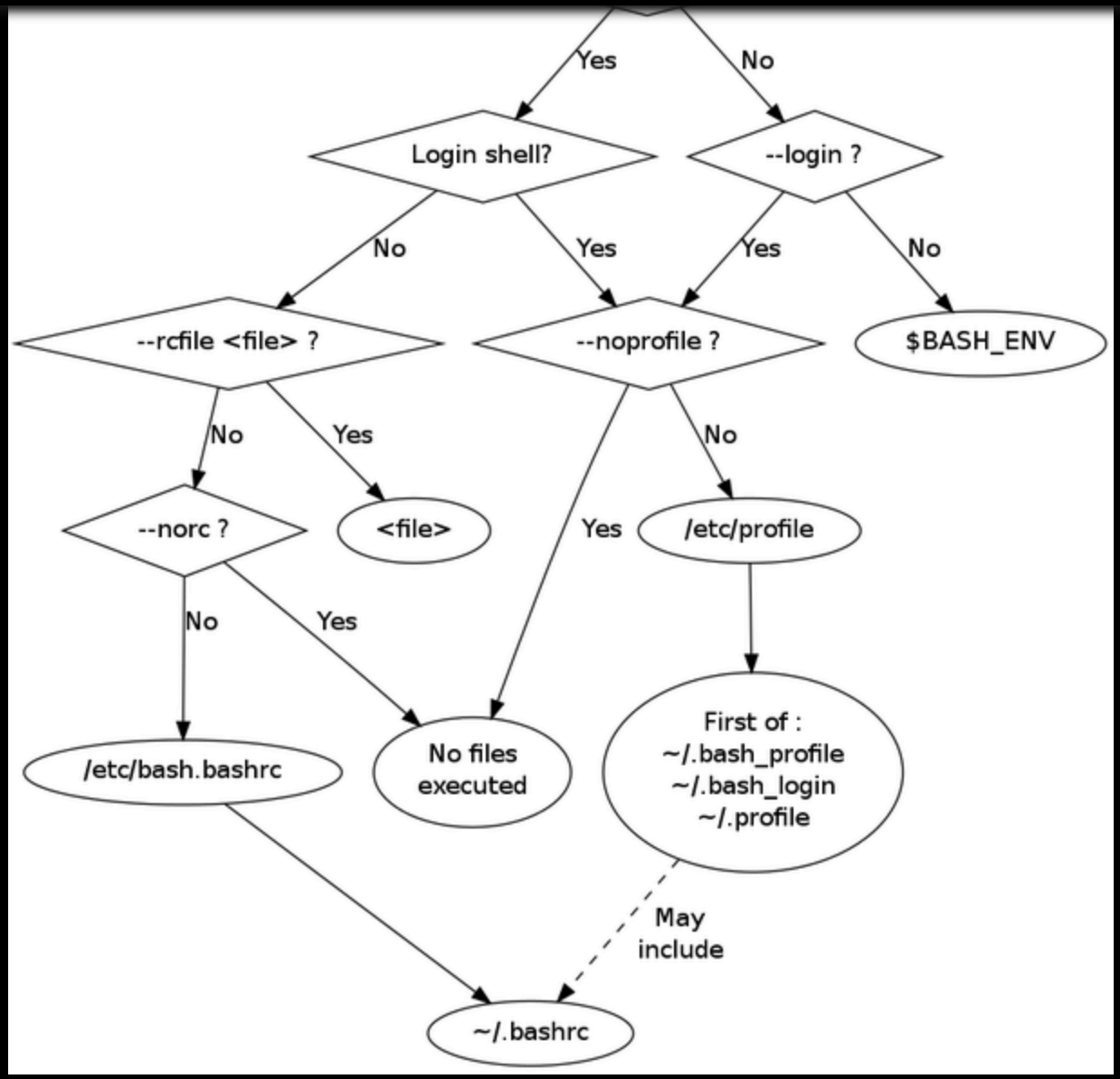
If you have ever put something in a file like .bashrc and had it not work, or are confused by why there are so many different files — .bashrc, .bash_profile, .bash_login, .profile etc. — and what they do, this is for you.

Not a Member yet?

> Don’t worry! You can still read the full article by clicking here(https://readmedium.com/zsh-bash-startup-files-loading-order-bashrc-zshrc-etc-e30045652f2e?sk=c92db4a1ca69874fe9e6ee446f43dd94).

an “interactive login shell” it reads from the *first* of .bash_profile, .bash_login and .profile (only). There is no sane reason why this should be so; it’s just historical. Follows in more detail.

For Bash, they work as follows. Read down the appropriate column. Executes A, then B, then C, etc. The B1, B2, B3 means it executes only the first of those files found.



From http://www.solipsys.co.uk/new/BashInitialisationFiles.html

```
       The bash executable
/etc/profile
       The systemwide initialization file, executed for login shells
~/.bash_profile
       The personal initialization file, executed for login shells
~/.bashrc
       The individual per-interactive-shell startup file
~/.bash_logout
       The individual login shell cleanup file, executed when a login shell e
~/.inputrc
       Individual readline initialization file
```

Typically, most users will encounter a login shell only if either: * they logged in from a tty, not through a GUI * they logged in remotely, such as through ssh. If the shell was started any other way, such as through GNOME's gnome-terminal or KDE's konsole, then it is typically not a login shell — the login shell was what started GNOME or KDE behind your back when you logged in; things started anew are not login shells. New terminals or new screen windows you open are not login shells either. (Starting a new window in OS X's Terminal.app seems to count as a login shell, though.)

most of your stuff in ~/.bashrc, having exactly one of ~/.bash_profile, ~/.bash_login, and ~/.profile, and sourcing ~/.bashrc from it. If you have nothing that you specifically want to happen only for login shells, you can even symlink one of the three to ~/.bashrc.

For zsh: [Note that zsh seems to read ~/.profile as well, if ~/.zshrc is not present.]

	Interactive login	Interactive non-login	Script
/etc/zshenv	A	A	A
~/.zshenv	B	B	B
/etc/zprofile	C		
~/.zprofile	D		
/etc/zshrc	E	C	
~/.zshrc	F	D	
/etc/zlogin	G		

```
|                 |           |           |      |
+-----------------+-----------+-----------+------+
|                 |           |           |      |
+-----------------+-----------+-----------+------+
|~/.zlogout       |    I      |           |      |
+-----------------+-----------+-----------+------+
|/etc/zlogout     |    J      |           |      |
+-----------------+-----------+-----------+------+
```

Moral: For bash, put stuff in ~/.bashrc, and make ~/.bash_profile source it. For zsh, put stuff in ~/.zshrc, which is always executed.

Original post :https://shreevatsa.wordpress.com/2008/03/30/zshbash-startup-files-loading-order-bashrc-zshrc-etc/

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