



Ifs and Lists

Cybersecurity

Bash Scripting and Programming Day 2



Class Objectives

By the end of today's class, you will be able to:



Read bash and interpret scripts.



Use variables in your bash scripts.



Use if statements in your bash scripts.



Use lists in your bash scripts.



Iterate through lists with a for loop.

If Statements

Bash Scripting

Bash scripting is a vital skill for any cybersecurity professional. Scripts can be used for the following:

- **System administrators** (sysadmins) use them to set up and configure machines.
- **Forensics** use them for investigations.
- **Pen testers** use them to probe networks and find vulnerabilities.



Conditional Statements

Cyber professional roles often require advanced bash skills. Today, we'll continue to develop our scripting skills in order to incorporate the following into our script:



If statements.



For loops to complete repetitive tasks.



Automating the set up of a machine.

Criteria and Decision Making

First, we will need our scripts to make decisions based on specific criteria.

- For example, our scripts can check for the existence of users, directories, files or permissions.
Based on the results, the script can then take specific action or even stop execution.

In order to accomplish these tasks, we will need to learn a few useful scripting techniques:

- Using if statements.
- Using if/else statements.
- Testing multiple conditions using if/else statements.



First, a comment...

```
# This is a comment
```

Comments are non-executable text within the script.

- Placing a # in front of a line tells bash to ignore it.
- These comments can describe the script functionality in plain English, making it easier for developers to understand the code.
- By placing a # in front of code, bash will ignore that line. This is known as “**commented out**”. Commenting out is often preferable to simply deleting the code. It also allows developers to toggle certain code on and off.

If Syntax

```
if [ <test> ]  
then  
<run_this_command>  
fi
```

`if` initiates our if statement.

`[]` encapsulates the condition.

`then` runs following commands *if* the condition is met.

`fi` ends the if statement.

If Syntax

```
if [ 5 -gt 8 ]  
then  
    echo "This doesn't make sense!"  
fi
```

`if [5 -gt 8]` This will check if 5 is greater than 8.

`then` Runs the following commands *if* the condition is met.

`echo "This doesn't make sense!"` Will have the script print to the screen "That doesn't make sense".

`fi` ends the if statement.

If Else Syntax

```
if [ <test> ]  
then  
    <run_this_code>  
else  
    <run_this_code>  
fi
```

if [<condition>] if this test is true...

then runs the following code.

else runs the following code if the condition is false.

fi ends the if statement.

If Else Syntax

```
if [ 5 -gt 4 ]  
then  
    echo "That is correct!"  
else  
    echo "That doesn't make sense!"  
fi
```

`if [5 -gt 4]` will check if 5 is greater than 4.

`then` runs following code *if* the condition is met.

`echo "That is correct!"` is printed to the screen.

`else` runs the following code if the condition is unmet.

`echo "This doesn't make sense!"`

`fi` ends the if statement.

&& Syntax

```
if [ <condition_1> ] && [ <condition_2> ]  
then  
<run_this_command>  
fi
```

`if [<test1>]` checks if one condition is true.

`&& [<test2>]` checks if a second condition is true.

`Then` runs the following code if both conditions are met.

`fi` ends the if statement.

&& Syntax

```
if [ 5 -gt 4 ] && [ 4 -gt 3 ]  
then  
    echo "That makes sense".  
fi
```

If the following two conditions are met:

```
if [5 -gt 4]
```

```
&& [4 -gt 3]
```

Run `echo "That makes sense".`

|| Syntax

```
if [ <condition1> ] || [ <condition2> ]  
then  
<run_this_code>  
else  
<run_this_code>  
fi
```

`if [<condition1>]` if condition 1 is true.
`|| [<condition 2>]` or if condition 2 is true.
`then` run the following code.
`else` runs code if both conditions are false.
`fi` ends the if statement.

|| Syntax

```
if [5 -gt 4] || [4 -gt 3]
then
    echo "That only partially makes sense"
else
    echo "None of this makes sense"
fi
```

if [5 -gt 4]: If this condition is true...

|| [4 -gt 3]: ...or if this test is true...

then: run the following code.

else: Otherwise (if both conditions are false), run the following command.

fi: Ends the if statement.

Summary:

if	<pre>if [<condition>] then <run_this_command> fi</pre>	Runs code <i>if</i> the condition is met.
if / else	<pre>if [<condition>] then <run_this_command> else <run_this_command> fi</pre>	Runs code <i>if</i> the condition is met. If condition isn't met, it will run a different command.
&&	<pre>if [<condition1>] && [<condition2>] then <run_this_command> fi</pre>	Runs code if more than one condition is met.
	<pre>if [<condition1>] [<condition2>] then <run_this_command> else <run_this_command> fi</pre>	Runs code if only one of multiple conditions are met.

Creating Conditionals

Now, we'll compare variables using the following conditionals:

<code>=</code>	This strings is equal to another
<code>==</code>	If two strings are equal.
<code>!=</code>	If two strings are not equal
<code>-gt</code>	If one integer is greater than another.
<code>-lt</code>	If one integer is less than another.
<code>-d /path_to/directory</code>	Checks for existence of a directory.
<code>-f /path_to?files</code>	Checks for existence of a file.

Equals to

```
# If $x is equal to $y, run the echo command.  
if [ $x = $y ]  
then  
    echo "X is equal to Y!"  
fi
```

`if [$x = $y]:` If the value of the x variable is equal to the value of the y variable.

`then` Then, run the following command.

`echo "X is equal to Y!"` The echo command that will run if the initial condition is met.

`fi` Ends the if statement.

Not equals to

```
# If $x is not equal to $y, run the echo command.  
if [ $x != $y ]  
then  
    echo "X does not equal Y!"  
fi
```

if [\$x != \$y]: If the value of the x variable is not equal to the value of the y variable.

then: then, run the following command.

echo "X does not equal Y!"

fi Ends the if statement.

Conditionals and Strings

```
# If str1 is not equal to str2, run the echo command and exit the
script.
if [ "$str1" != "$str2" ]
then
    echo "These strings do not match."
    echo "Exiting this script."
fi
```

`if ["$str1" != "$str2"]` If string 1 is not equal to string 2...

`Then` Then, run the following command.

`echo "These strings do not match"`

`echo "Exiting this script."`

`fi` Ends the if statement.

Greater Than and Less Than

```
# If x is greater than y, run the echo command
if [ $x -gt $y ]
then
    echo "$x is greater than $y".
fi
```

```
# Checks if x is less than y
if [ $x -lt $y ]
then
    echo "$x is less than $y!"
else
    echo "$x is not less than $y!"
fi
```

Checking Files and directories

```
# check for the /etc directory
if [ -d /etc ]
then
    echo The /etc directory exists!
fi

# check for my_cool_folder
if [ ! -d /my_cool_folder ]
then
    echo my_cool_folder is not there!
fi

# check for my_file.txt
if [ -f /my_file.txt ]
then
    echo my_file.txt is there
fi
```

```
if [ -d /etc ]...:
```

- If the /etc directory exists, run the following echo command.

```
if [ ! -d /my_cool_folder ]...:
```

- If /my_cool_folder does not exist, run the following echo command.

```
if [ -f /my_file.txt ]...:
```

- If the file /my_file.txt exists, then run the following echo command.

We can use built-in variables and command expansions inside our tests.

In the following three examples, we will use these variables and command expansions to verify:

- If certain users are sysadmin.
- The UID of the users.
- The current user running the script is a sysadmin.

Built In Variables and Command Expansions:

```
# if the user that ran this script is not the sysadmin user, run the echo command
if [ $USER != 'sysadmin' ]
then
    echo "You are not the sysadmin!"
    exit
fi
```

`if [$USER != 'sysadmin']`: If the user that ran this script is not “sysadmin,” then run the following echo command.

Built In Variables and Command Expansions:

```
# if the uid of the user that ran this script does not equal 1000, run the echo command
if [ $UID != 1000 ]
then
    echo your UID is wrong
    exit
fi
```

if [\$UID -ne 1000]: If the UID of the user who is running this script does not equal 1000, then run the following echo command.

Built In Variables and Command Expansions:

```
# if the sysadmin ran the script, run the echo command
if [ $(whoami) = 'sysadmin' ]
then
    echo 'you are the sysadmin!'
fi
```

`if [$(whoami) = 'sysadmin']:` If the user “sysadmin” ran the script, then run the following echo command.



Activity: Variables and If Statements

In this activity, you will add variables and conditional if statements to your scripts.

Suggested Time:
20 minutes

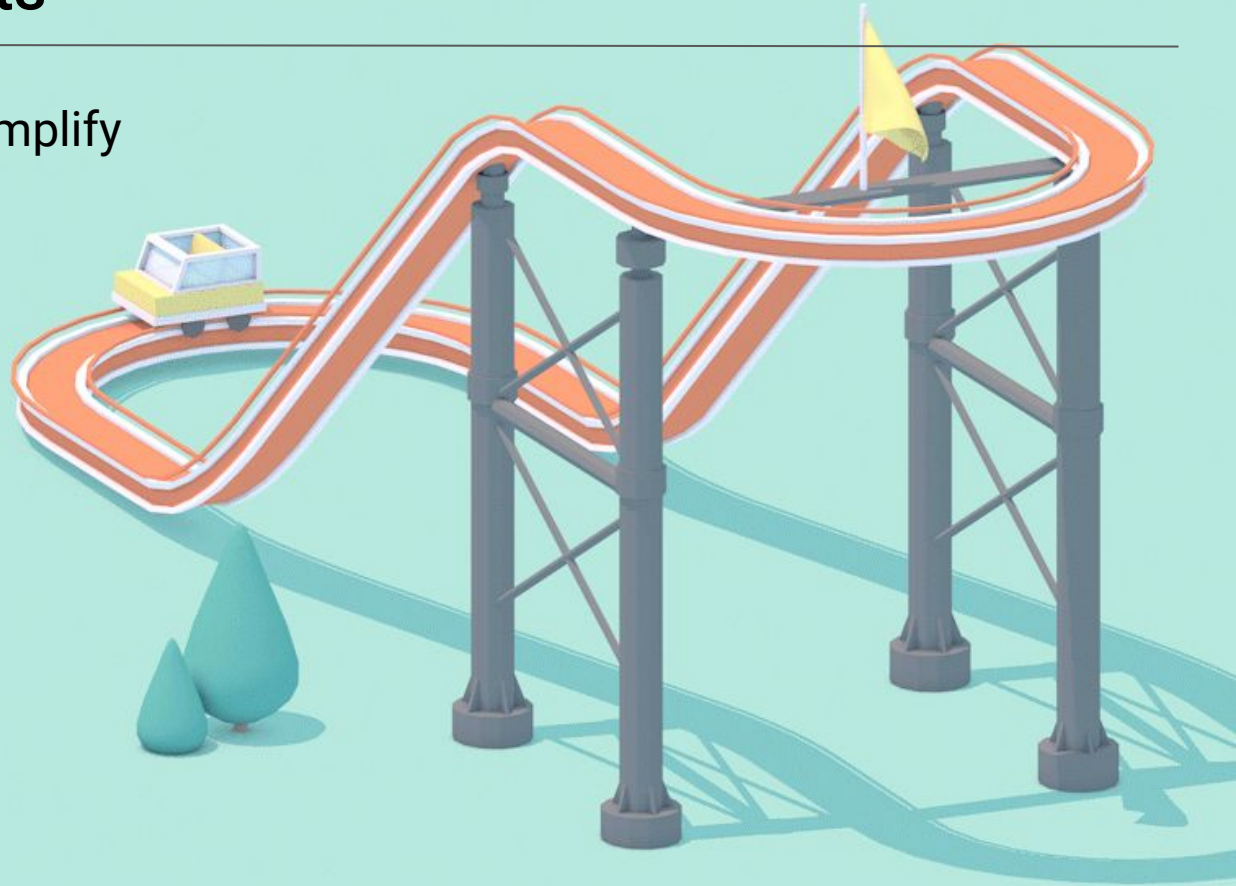


List and Loops

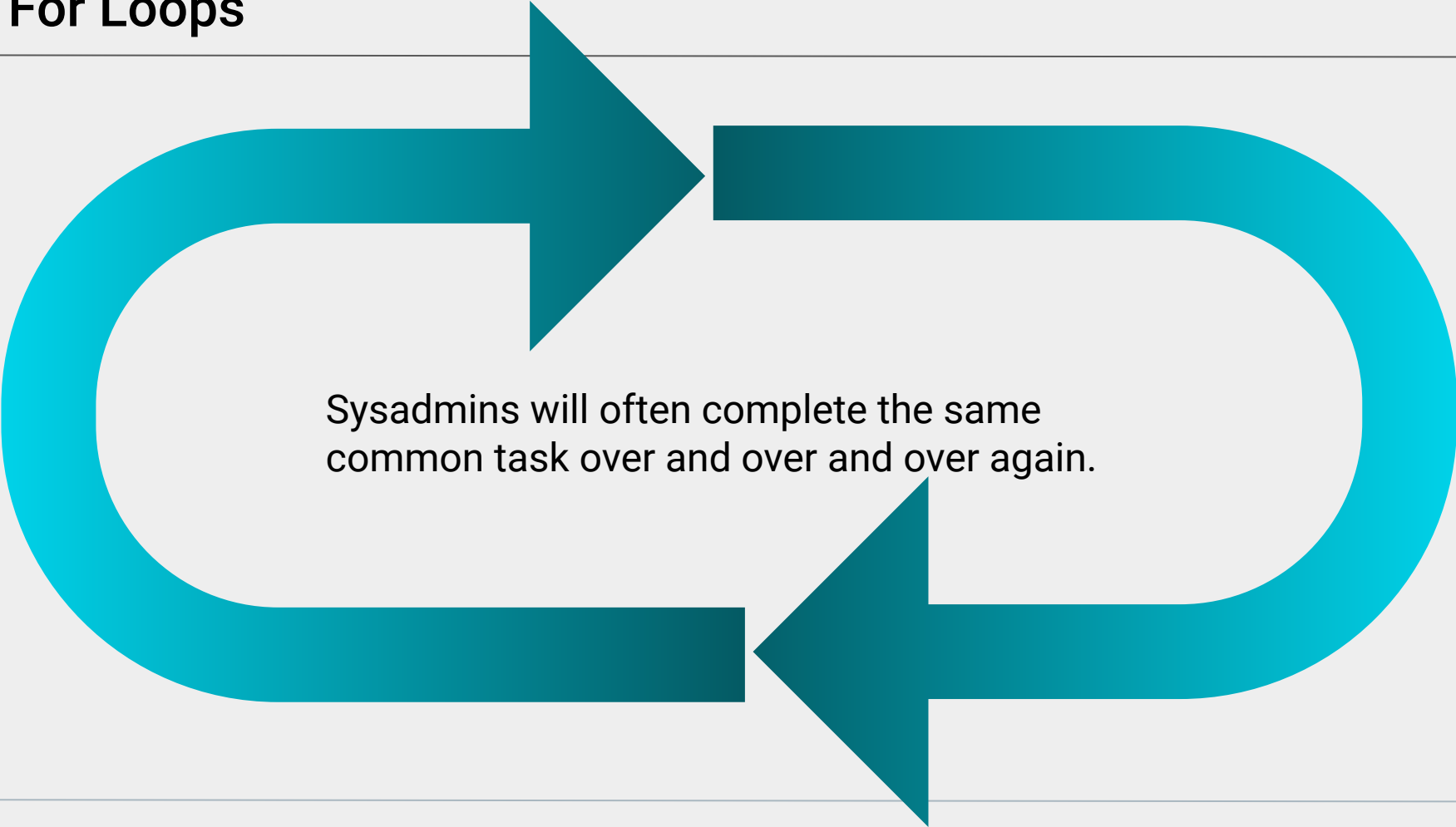
Optimizing our Scripts

The tools we are learning simplify and expedite the day-to-day workloads of sysadmins.

In this section, we will continue to streamline our scripts by incorporating loops.



For Loops



Sysadmins will often complete the same common task over and over and over again.

For Loops

For loop allows us to run a block of code multiple times in a row, without having to repeatedly enter that code.



The code is run against each item in a list of items.



The `for loop` run for as many times as there are items on the loop.

```
for package in ${packages[@]}  
do  
    if [ ! $(which $package) ]  
    then  
        apt install -y $package  
    fi  
done
```




Instructor Demonstration

For loops

In the previous demo, we:

Made lists	<pre>my_list=(a b c d e f)</pre>
Accessed the list with commands	<pre>\$ echo \${my_list[0]} a \$ echo \${my_list[4]} e \$ echo \${my_list[@]} a b c d e f</pre>
Created for loops	<pre># for <item> in <list>; # do # <run_this_command> # <run_this_command> # done</pre>
Created loops with conditionals	<pre># run an operation on each number for num in {0..5}; do if [\$num = 1] [\$num = 4] then echo \$num fi done</pre>



Activity: Lists and Loops

In this activity, you use for loops to automate repetitive tasks.

Suggested Time:
20 minutes





Times Up! Let's Review.





Countdown timer

15:00

(with alarm)

For Loops for Sysadmins



```
group_info = malloc(sizeof(struct group_info));
if (!group_info)
    return NULL;
group_info->ngroups = gidsetsize;
group_info->nblocks = nblocks;
atomic_set(&group_info->usage, 1);

if (gidsetsize <= NGROUPS_SMALL)
    group_info->blocks[0] = group_info->small_block;
else {
    for (i = 0; i < nblocks; i++) {
        gid_t *b;
```

For Loops for Sysadmins

Sometimes, creating a script might be excessive for the scale of the present task. Instead, we can use these for loops directly on the command line, outside of a script.

For Loops for SysAdmins

For example, suppose that a sysadmin needs to prep each employees computer with the following packages:

- Zoom
- Slack
- Excel
- DocuSign

Rather than just logging onto each of the computers and installing the packages, the sysadmin could turn these apps into a list.

- `packages = [Zoom, Slack, Excel, Docusign]`

We can then employ a for loop to iterate through the packages list and install the apps on each machine.

Why For Loops



Loop through a list of packages to check if they are installed.



Loop through the results of a find command and take action on each item found.



Loop through a group of files, check their permissions and change if needed.



Loop through a group of files and create a cryptographic hash of each file.



Loop through all the users on the system and take an action for each one.

For Loops for Sysadmins

In the next demo, you will see how loops can be used to:



run through a list of packages and check if certain ones are installed.



search users' home directories for scripts and print a confirmation statement.



loop through scripts in your scripts folder and change the permissions to execute.



create a **for** loop that moves through a group of files and creates a hash of each file.

We will also write for loops directly on the command line.



Instructor Demonstration

Scripts and Loops



Activity: For Loops for SysAdmins

In this activity, you will add loops to your **sys_info.sh** script, and run loops directly on the command line.

Suggested Time:
25 minutes





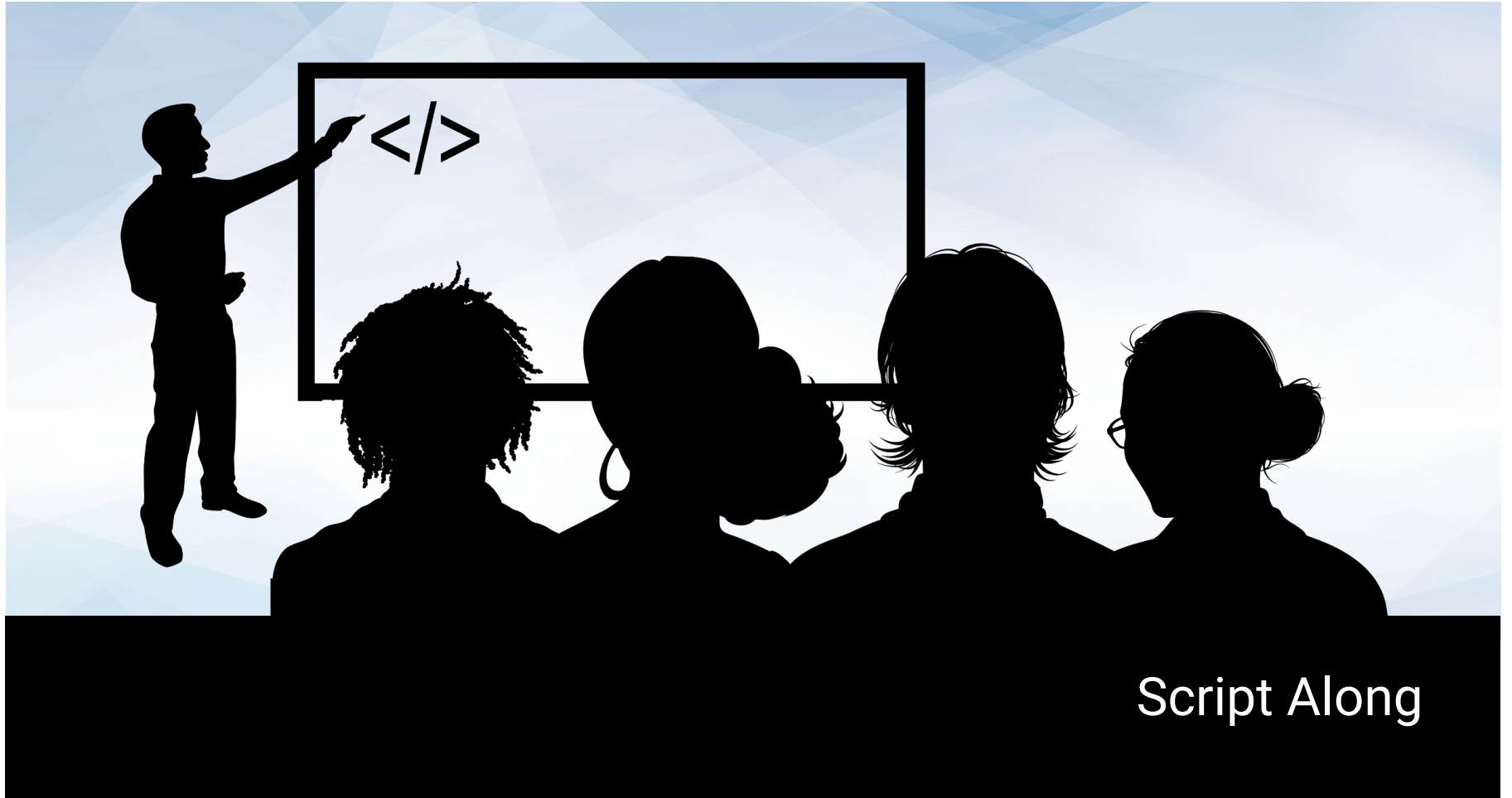
Times Up! Let's Review.

(Optional) Script Along Set Up

So far, we have use if statements to control the execution flow in a script. We also used if statements with loops to perform administrative tasks.

For our final activity, we apply these new skills by going through a completed user setup script.





Script Along