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## The Scripting Awakening (05/04/2022)

I decided to try and implement ctime in Bash for pedagogical purposes. My first task was to write and read a binary file. Googling how to do this in Bash returned the consensus, “use another language”. Often when I read this, I’m not deterred. I have encountered similar naysayers before when it comes to directly using Xlib. However, when it came to wanting structures to read and write to (essential for binary work), I found Bash was empty. With this understanding, I realised more generally that the usefulness of scripting languages are limited. Specifically, they should be limited to basic tasks that involve searching or external tool usage. I suppose my biggest use case of Bash is for enhancing my terminal (.bashrc) and vim (:.! ) interactions. C is a simple language and if you understand it’s low-level capabilities, you can do many things. However, despite this recognition, I did come upon certain procedures to follow when working with Bash scripts.

```
# Checking arguments as callee
[ ! $# -ge 3 ] && return 1
[ "$1" = "-arg" ]
# Checking arguments as caller
func || exit 1
# Function returning value
_FUNC_NAME=val
# Informative usage information
printf "App v1.0 by Ryan McClue\n" >&2
printf "Usage:\n" >&2
printf "app -arg <value>\n" >&2
```

## NEWS - A New Lion Enters the Pride

Politics are infiltrating areas of technology: \* Rust toolchains on embedded. Rust developers have explicitly tweeted saying technology will always be political \* NASA Artemis Accords have first line stating primary focus on women and person of colour on Moon Leads down the path of FSF, and in fact any cultural revolution which thinks it can do whatever it wants in the name of the people. Although perhaps ad hominem, experience has shown that they’re all polite until they’re not.

Seems in with big-tech, marketing is often more important than the underlying technology. 170km ‘The Line’ ecotopia, metaverse, telsa etc. They make wild

claims and the general public has no way of knowing the facts behind them (perception vs reality) A scary thought is that in this age, possible for self-sustaining narratives capable of deflecting facts

ARMs open-model allowed vendors to implement custom MPUs that saw in gain dominance over other RISCs like MIPS and AVR.

Tech companies becoming conglomerate monopolies, e.g. tiktok music, apple tv etc.

Much like the C++ standards committee, concerns of 'ivory tower' nature of smart home Matter standards

Seeing consequences of covid semiconductor demand in chip shortages. Exacerbated by increase usage in automotive industry and large dependence on foundries in Taiwan

Annoyed at the web: \* Seemingly lack of awareness of bloated and abstracted infrastructure \* New technologies in the sphere are just sensationalised titles with little substance e.g. homescreen social media, css layout model and js frameworks

The importance of programming to a physical machine is paramount. The underlying technology is always changing, e.g. arcade machines, consoles, phones, watches, plastic 4bit processors

EU lawmakers want USB-C for all mobile devices to reduce e-waste. Makes me postulate a technocracy.