

Environment Variables

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Environment variables are not limited in length or number. Lots of applications use them, for instance, in order to set default values for configuration options.

Examples include **HOME**, **HOST**, **PATH**, and can be set as in **PATH**:
PATH=\$HOME/bin:\$PATH for example.

Note: Putting **./** in your path is a security risk; an unfriendly user might substitute an executable which could be quite harmful. However, if you are on a single user system, you may want to violate this recommendation.

Type **env** (or **export**) to get a list of presently exported environment variables, set to get the complete set of variables.

Some variables to set (use whatever values make sense for you!):

```
EDITOR=/usr/bin/emacs
```

```
CD_PATH=$HOME:/tmp
```

```
LS_COLORS="....."
```

```
PAGER=/usr/bin/less
```

```
HISTSIZE=1000
```

An environment variable must be exported to propagate its value to a child process. You can do either of the following:

```
$ VAR=value ; export VAR
```

```
$ export VAR=value
```

You can also make one or more environment variables take effect for just one command:

```
$ LD_LIBRARY_PATH=$PWD DEBUG=3 ./foobar
```