

# Customize your command-line prompt

Place this line in your `.bashrc` file:

```
export PS1="[ \u@\h \w] \$ <\!> \]"
```

Then `source` the file to effect the changes:

```
$ source ~/.bashrc
```

Now your command-line prompt should look something like this:

```
[slindsey@isp02 ~] $ <66>
```

Change directories and see what happens.

See <http://tldp.org/HOWTO/Bash-Prompt-HOWTO/bash-prompt-escape-sequences.html> for more customizing options.

# Bash history

While programming, you'll often repeat the same command or variations on a command many times in a single session. Bash's history capabilities can greatly reduce the amount of typing and greatly increase development speed.

The shell keeps a history of all your previous commands in the `.bash_history` file. The `history` command displays this list:

```
$ history 5      #display the last five commands
$ history -c     #clear the history
```

# Use ! + string operator to match past commands

```
$ history 5  
65 cp test.cpp hello.cpp  
66 cat hello.cpp  
67 icpc hello.cpp  
68 ./a.out  
69 vi hello.cpp  
70 history
```

You can use the ! operator + a string-pattern to match past commands:

```
$ !ic  
icpc hello.cpp  
$ !cat  
cat hello.cpp  
$ !v  
vi hello.cpp
```

A student also noted that you can use `control-R` to search your command history.

# Use !+command-number and !!

**! + command number to repeat a command**

```
$ history 5  
66 cat hello.cpp  
67 icpc hello.cpp  
68 ./a.out  
69 vi hello.cpp  
70 history  
$ !67  
icpc hello.cpp  
$ !68  
vi hello.cpp
```

**!! to repeat the last command**

```
$ !!  
vi hello.cpp
```