IT 240
Shell Scripting for Administrators

Chapter 10
Shell Scripting Functions

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Defining Functions

- If you’re going to reuse code many times in a script, it might make sense to define it in a function
- Functions should have a clearly defined purpose and a descriptive name
- Technically, functions define blocks of code, but blocks of code by themselves are not considered functions

Function Basics

- A function is defined in the form:
    - *$function_name () { function code; }*
- Once defined, a function may be used from the command line or in scripts
- You can examine the code of a function with the *declare -f function_name* command
- Individual commands in a function declaration should be separated with semicolons or on individual lnes

Function Basics

- By default, functions are available to the shell where they are defined and must be declared before use
- If a function will be called from a script, the function definition should precede any call to the function
- Functions may be undeclared with the *unset function_name* command

Function Basics

- Arguments may be passed to functions in the same manner that we've seen earlier; all of the standard argument naming rules apply (*$**, *$#*, *$0*, ect)
- Similarly, function return codes may be captured and evaluated
- A zero indicates proper execution