What are Environment variables?

Environment variables in Bash scripting are special variables that store information about the environment in which a program or script is running. These variables are used to pass data into processes, scripts, and system commands, allowing for dynamic behavior based on the environment.

Key Points About Environment Variables:

- They hold information such as user details, system paths, shell settings, and more.
- Common examples include PATH, HOME, USER, and SHELL.
- Environment variables can be accessed by any program or script running within the same session.
- They can be set, modified, and accessed within scripts to control how they run.

Common Environment Variables in Bash:

Some standard environment variables are:

PATH: Lists directories to search for executable files. When you run a command, the shell searches these directories to find the executable.

echo $PATH

HOME: The home directory of the current user.

echo $HOME

USER: The username of the current user.

echo $USER

PWD: The present working directory.

echo $PWD

Variable	Description	Example Value
`PATH`	Directories to search for executable files	`/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin`
`HOME`	Home directory of the current user	`/home/username`
`USER`	Username of the current user	`username`
`PWD`	Present working directory	`/home/username/docs`
`OLDPWD`	Previous working directory	`/home/username`
`SHELL`	Path to the user's default shell	`/bin/bash`
`LANG`	Language and region settings	`en_US.UTF-8`
`EDITOR`	Default text editor	`vim` or `nano`
`LOGNAME`	Login name of the user	`username`
`UID`	Unique user ID number of the current user	`1000`
`HOSTNAME`	Name of the host machine	`my-computer`
`PS1`	Shell prompt appearance	`[\u@\h \W]\$`
`MAIL`	Location of the user's mail inbox	`/var/mail/username`
`TERM`	Type of terminal in use	`xterm-256color`
`RANDOM`	Generates a random number each time it's called	`18725`