

2.5 Environment Variables

As you study this section, answer the following questions:

- What is the role of environment variables?
- What is the standard syntax for environment variable identifiers?
- How do you preserve the current values of the PATH environment variable when adding a new value to it?
- How do you make a new value assigned to an environment variable persistent across all shell sessions?

In this section, you will learn to:

- Display the value of currently set environment variables.
- Set the value of an environment variable.

Key terms for this section include the following:

Term	Definition
Variable	A data object that has a name and one or more assigned values.
Environment variable	A Linux variable that provides settings and information across different applications, processes and services and is inherited by child shells and processes.
Shell variable	A Linux variable that is not inherited by child shells and processes.
User variable	A Linux shell variable that is typically defined at the shell prompt or added when scripts that are defined in a user's profile are run.
Local variable	A Linux shell variable that is typically defined in scripts and in script functions and generally do not exist after the script or function is run.
export	A shell command that essentially changes a variable's <i>export</i> attribute to make it an environment variable that is inherited by child shells and processes.
echo	A shell command that displays the contents of a variable.
printenv	A shell command that displays current environment variables.

This section helps you prepare for the following certification exam objectives:

Exam	Objective
CompTIA Linux+	2.2 Given a scenario, manage users and groups.

- Profiles
 - Bash parameters
 - User entries
 - .bashrc
 - .bash_profile
 - .profile
 - Global entries
 - /etc/bashrc
 - /etc/profile.d/
 - /etc/profile

5.1 Automation and Scripting

- Shell environments and shell variables
 - PATH
 - Global
 - Local
 - export
 - env
 - set
 - printenv
 - echo

Testout Linux Pro

- 1.2
- Manage system startup and shutdown
- Manage environment variables