

## 2.1 The Linux Shell

As you study this section, answer the following questions:

- What is a shell?
- What are the basic differences between common shells?
- What is the difference between how executable programs are run by a Linux shell and a DOS environment?
- What is the difference between how a Linux shell recognizes the path to executable programs and how a DOS environment recognizes the path?
- What common commands are used to navigate through shells?
- What types of items can you use the Tab key to complete once you start typing the entities' name?
- What does the tilde symbol (~) in the prompt indicate?

In this lesson, you will learn to:

- Navigate through shells and execute shell commands.
- Use the command history.
- Use tab completion while executing a shell command.
- Use exec to execute a command.
- Execute basic commands such as **pwd**, **whoami**, **uname**, **su**, and **exit**.

Key terms for this section include the following:

Term	Definition
Linux shell	A command line interface (CLI) or text user interface (TUI) to the Linux operating system.
Shell prompt	A character or set of characters at the start of the command line that indicates that the shell is ready to receive commands.
PATH environment variable	An shell environment variable that contains the set of directories that are searched when you type an executable file at the shell prompt.
Tab complete	A shell feature that attempts to complete a command, file, or directory by pressing the Tab key after the first few characters of a command, file, or directory is typed at the shell prompt.
Command history	A shell feature that stores shell commands and displays them when you press the Up and Down arrow keys.

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

Exam	Objective
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TestOut Linux Pro	<div>1.2 Manage system startup and shutdown</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• View available shells</li></ul>
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