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**TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES
AHMEDABAD**

vILP – Unix - Customizing the shell environment

Content Manual

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1 Customizing the shell environment

1.1 Objectives

- Working with Shell environment

1.2 Working with Shell environment

- We have defined aliases, assigned values to many of the environment variables and used set options. This setting are applicable only for the session; when the user log out, they revert to their default values.
- To make this setting permanent, you will have to place them in start up script in user's home directory. You will find one or more of these files in your home directory:
 - .profile (Bourne shell)
 - .profile and .kshrc (Korn shell)
 - .bash_profile (or .profile or .bash_login) and .bashrc (Bash)
- we have two types of files – the “profiles” and “rc” files. The profile files are executed only once, upon login. The rc files are executed every time a separate shell is created.

1.2.1 The Profile

- The profile used by Bash shell can have one of three names - .bash_profile, .profile and .bash_login. Bash looks for one of these files in the sequence.
- This profile file should be created to your home directory at the time of user creation, but you can create one if it's not there. It is shell script file that is executed by the shell when user logs on to the system.
- Example:

```
$cat .profile
```

```
MAIL=/var/mail/$LOGNAME
PATH=$PATH:$HOME/bin:/user/usb:.
PS1='$'
PS2= >
TERM=vt 100
stty stop ^S intr ^C erase ^?
echo "Today's date is 'date' "
```

- The profile contains commands that are mean to be executed only once in a session. Some of the system variables have been assigned in this script. The PATH has been modified to contain three more directories. Some stty setting have also been made here.
- The .profile lets you customize your operating environment to suit your requirements. This environment remains in effect throughout the login session. Every time you make changes to this file, you should log in again or use a special command to execute the file:

```
$ . .profile
```

1.2.2 The rc File

- Bash and Korn use rc file, defined by an environment variable, which should be specified in the profile (.profile or .bash_profile). You should have one of these settings in your profile depending on the shell you use:

```
export BASH_ENV=$HOME/.bashrc
```

```
export ENV=$HOME/.kshrc
```

- This file is executed every time a second shell is called up. However, there's a little difference in the way Bash and Korn use their rc file. Korn automatically executes .kshrc during login if ENV is defined in the way shown above. In Bash shell, above definition executed by the sub-shells. If the login shell also has to execute this file, then a separate statement must be added in the profile:

```
. ~/.bashrc
```

- The environment file should be used to hold only Bash or Korn specific

features. History list setting, command editing settings and alias definitions should all be made in the environment file.

- The rc file executed after the profile.