Create a simple executable file with the name **ls** in your current directory, which we will assume to be **/tmp**:

```
$ cd tmp
$ echo echo Hello, This is MY ls program > ls
$ chmod +x ls
```

You can run this directly by doing:

```
$ ./ls
```

but just typing **ls** will bring up the normal **/bin/ls**, which can be verified by typing **which ls**.

If you do:

```
$ export PATH=/tmp:$PATH
```

then typing **ls** will bring up your program no matter where you are sitting on the filesystem.

This is different than doing:

```
$ export PATH=./:$PATH
```

which puts the current directory first in the path, no matter where you are, or

```
$ export PATH=$CWD:$PATH
```

which will put the current working directory at this time in your future path.

Prepending your current directory to the path is generally a bad idea, as it makes trojan horses easy to implement.

✓ Complete Go to next item