Text Editors

Shells, Bash, and the Command Line

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The Development of Shells

Historical Order of Introduction

Most Linux users use the default **bash** shell, but those with long UNIX backgrounds with other shells may want to override the default; it is worth reviewing the main choices in the historical order of introduction:

- **sh** was written by Steve Bourne at AT&T in 1977, and is thus often known as the Bourne Shell; all other shells are descended from it in some fashion and it is available on all systems that have a UNIX bloodline

- **csh** was written by Bill Joy at UC Berkeley and released in 1978; the internal syntax is quite different that sh and is designed to resemble that of the C programming language, and hence the name

- **tcsh** was originally developed by Ken Greer at Carnegie Mellon University in the late 1970's; the t stands for TENEX, an operating system that was used on some DEC PDP-10s; it has many additional features as compared with csh and on virtually all