



The default command line prompt is **\$** for normal users and **#** for the root or superuser.

Customizing the command line prompt is as simple as modifying the value of the environment variable **PS1**. For example, to set it to display the hostname, user and current directory:

```
1 $ PS1="\h:\u:\w>"
2 c7:coop:/tmp>|
```


Besides the aesthetic value of having a prettier prompt than the default value, embedding more information in the prompt can be quite useful. In the example given we have shown:


- The machine name - this is useful if you run command line windows on remote machines from your desktop; you can always tell where you are, and this can avoid many errors.
- The user name - this is particularly important if you are running as a superuser (root) and can help you avoid errors where you take what you think is a benign action and wind up crippling your system.
- The current directory - it is always important to know where you are. You certainly do not want to do something like **rm *** in the wrong directory.


Here is a table with some of the possible special characters that can be embedded in the **PS1** string:

Character	Meaning	Example Output
\t	Time in HH:MM:SS	08:43:40
\d	Date in "Weekday Month Date"	Fri Mar 12
\n	Newline	
\s	Shell name	bash
\w	Current working directory	/usr/local/bin
\W	Basename of current working directory	bin
\u	User	coop
\h	Hostname	c7
\#	Command number (this session)	43
!	History number (in history file)	1057

Note you can embed any other string you like in the prompt.







✓ Complete

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