

Chapter 15

Introductory Bourne Shell Programming

Objectives

- To introduce the concept of shell programming
- To discuss how shell programs are executed
- To describe the concept and use of shell variables
- To discuss how command line arguments are passed to shell programs
- To explain the concept of command substitution
- To describe some basic coding principles
- To write and discuss some shell scripts
- To cover the commands and primitives

Introduction

- **Shell script:** a shell program, consists of shell commands to be executed by a shell and is stored in ordinary UNIX file
- **Shell variable:** read/write storage place for users and programmers to use as a scratch pad for completing a task
- **Program control flow commands (or statements):** allow non sequential execution of commands in a shell script and repeated execution of a block of commands

Running a Bourne Shell Script

- Ways of running a Bourne Shell
 - Make the script file executable by adding the execute permission to the existing access permissions for the file

```
$ chmod u+x script_file
```

\$
 - Run the /bin/sh command with the script file as its parameter

```
$ /bin/sh script_file
```

\$
 - Force the current shell to execute a script in the Bourne shell, regardless of your current shell

```
#!/bin/sh
```
- Null command (:)

When the C shell reads : as the first character it returns a Bourne shell process that executes the commands in the script. The : command returns true

Shell Variables

TABLE 15.1 Some Important Writable Bourne Shell Environment Variables

Environment Variable	Purpose of the Variable
CDPATH	Contains directory names that are searched, one by one, by the <code>cd</code> command to find the directory passed to it as a parameter; the <code>cd</code> command searches the current directory if this variable is not set
EDITOR	Default editor used in programs such as the e-mail program
ENV	Path along which UNIX looks to find configuration files
HOME	Name of home directory, when user first logs on
MAIL	Name of user's system mailbox file
MAILCHECK	How often (in seconds) the shell should check user's mailbox for new mail and inform user accordingly
PATH	Variable that contains user's search path—the directories that a shell searches to find an external command or program
PPID	Process ID of the parent process
PS1	Primary shell prompt that appears on the command line, usually set to \$
PS2	Secondary shell prompt displayed on second line of a command if shell thinks that the command is not finished, typically when the command terminates with a backslash (\), the escape character
PWD	Name of the current working directory
TERM	Type of user's console terminal

Read-only Shell Variables

TABLE 15.2 Some Important Read-Only Bourne Shell Environment Variables

Environment Variable	Purpose of the Variable
\$0	Name of program
\$1–\$9	Values of command line arguments 1 through 9
\$*	Values of all command line arguments
\$@	Values of all command line arguments; each argument individually quoted if \$@ is enclosed in quotes, as in "\$@"
\$#	Total number of command line arguments
\$\$	Process ID (PID) of current process
\$?	Exit status of most recent command
\$!	PID of most recent background process

Display Shell Variables

```
$ set
AUTHSTATE=compat
CGI_DIRECTORY=/usr/lpp/internet/server_root/cgi-bin
ERRNO=10
FCEDIT=/usr/bin/ed
HOME=/home/inst/msarwar
IFS='
'
LOCPATH=/usr/lib/nls/loc
LOGIN=msarwar
LOGNAME=msarwar
MAIL=/usr/spool/mail/msarwar
MAILCHECK=600
MAILMSG=' [YOU HAVE NEW MAIL]'
PATH=/usr/lpp/workbench/bin:/usr/lpp/Java/bin:/usr/bin:/etc:/usr/sbin:/usr/ucb:/usr/local/bin:/usr/local/share/bin:/home/inst/msarwar/bin:/usr/bin/X11:/sbin:.
PPID=18632
PS1=' $ '
PS2='> '
PS3=' #? '
PS4=' + '
PWD=/home/inst/msarwar
SHELL=/usr/bin/ksh
TERM=vt100
TMOUT=0
TZ=PST8PDT
USER=msarwar
$
```

Display Shell Variables

```
$ env
LANG=en_US
LOGIN=msarwar
NLSPATH=/usr/lib/nls/msg/%L/%N:/usr/lib/nls/msg/%L/%N.cat
IMQCONFIGCL=/etc/IMNSearch/dbcshelp
PATH=/usr/lpp/workbench/bin:/usr/lpp/Java/bin:/usr/bin:/etc:/usr/sbin:/usr/ucb:/us
r/local/bin:/usr/local/share/
bin:/home/inst/msarwar/bin:/usr/bin/X11:/sbin:.
IMQCONFIGSRV=/etc/IMNSearch
CGI_DIRECTORY=/usr/lpp/internet/server_root/cgi-bin
LOGNAME=msarwar
MAIL=/usr/spool/mail/msarwar
LOCPATH=/usr/lib/nls/loc
USER=msarwar
DOCUMENT_SERVER_MACHINE_NAME=pccaiX
AUTHSTATE=compat
SHELL=/usr/bin/ksh
ODMDIR=/etc/objrepos
DOCUMENT_SERVER_PORT=80
HOME=/home/inst/msarwar
TERM=vt100
MAILMSG=[ YOU HAVE NEW MAIL ]
PWD=/home/inst/msarwar
DOCUMENT_DIRECTORY=/usr/lpp/internet/server_root/pub
TZ=PST8PDT
$
```

IN-CHAPTER EXERCISES

- 15.1.** Display the names and values of all the shell variables on your UNIX machine. What command(s) did you use?
- 15.2.** Create a file that contains a shell script comprising the `date` and `who` commands, one on each line. Make the file executable and run the shell script. List all the steps for completing this task.

Reading and Writing Shell Variables

```
variable1=value1 [variable2=value2...variableN=valueN]
```

Purpose:

Assign values ‘value1,...,valueN’ to ‘variable1,...,variableN’ respectively –no space allowed before and after the equals sign

Reading and Writing Shell Variables

```
$ name=John
$ echo $name
John
$ name=John Doe
Doe: not found
$ name="John Doe"
$ echo $name
John Doe
$ name=John*
$ echo $name
John.Bates.letter John.Johnsen.memo John.email
$ echo "$name"
John*
$ echo "The name $name sounds familiar!"
The name John* sounds familiar!
$ echo \$name
$name
$ echo '$name'
$name
$
```

Command Substitution

- **Command Substitution:** When a command is enclosed in back quotes, the shell executes the command and substitutes the command (including back quotes) with the output of the command
- `command`

Purpose: Substitute its output for `command`

Command Substitution

```
$ command=pwd
$ echo "The value of command is: $command."
The value of command is: pwd.
$ command=`pwd`
$ echo "The value of command is: $command."
The value of command is: /users/faculty/sarwar/unixbook/examples.
$
$ echo "The date and time is `date`."
The date and time is Fri May 7 13:26:42 PDT 2004.
$
```

IN-CHAPTER EXERCISES

- 15.3.** Assign your full name to a shell variable called *myname* and echo its value. How did you accomplish the task? Show your work.
- 15.4.** Assign the output of `echo "Hello, world!"` command to the *myname* variable and then display the value of *myname*. List the commands that you executed to complete your work.

Exporting Environment

```
export [name-list]
```

Purpose Export the names and copies of the current values in the ‘name-list’ to every command executed from this point on

```
$ name="John Doe"  
$ export name  
  
$ cat display_name  
echo $name  
exit 0  
  
$  
  
$ name="John Doe"  
$ display_name  
  
$  
  
$ name="John Doe"  
$ export name  
$ display_name  
John Doe  
$ echo $?  
0  
$
```

```
$ cat export_demo  
#!/bin/sh  
name="John Doe"  
export name  
display_change_name  
display_name  
exit 0
```

```
$ cat display_change_name  
#!/bin/sh  
echo $name  
name="Plain Jane"  
echo $name  
exit 0
```

```
$ export_demo  
John Doe  
Plain Jane  
John Doe  
$
```

Resetting Variables

```
unset [name-list]
```

Purpose Reset or remove the variable or function corresponding to the names in ‘name-list’, where ‘name-list’ is a list of names separated by spaces

```
$ name=John place=Corvallis
$ echo "$name $place"
John Corvallis
$ unset name
$ echo "$name"

$ echo "$place"
Corvallis
$
$ unset name place
$
```

Creating Read-Only Defined Variables

```
readonly [name-list]
```

Purpose Prevent assignment of new values to the variables in ‘name-list’

```
$ name=Jim
$ place=Ames
$ readonly name place
$ echo "$name $place"
John Ames
$ name=Art place="Ann Arbor"
place: is read only
$ name=Art
name: is read only
$

$ readonly
LOGNAME=msarwar
name=Jim
place=Ames
$
```

Reading from Standard Input

read variable-list

Purpose Read one line from standard input and assign words in the line to variables in ‘name-list’

```
$ cat read_demo
#!/bin/sh
echo "Enter input: \c"
read line
echo "You entered: $line"
echo "Enter another line: \c"
read word1 word2 word3
echo "The first word is: $word1"
echo "The second word is: $word2"
echo "The rest of the line is: $word3"
exit 0
$
```

```
$ read_demo
Enter input: UNIX rules the network computing world!
You entered: UNIX rules the network computing world!
Enter another line: UNIX rules the network computing world!
The first word is: UNIX
The second word is: rules
The rest of the line is: the network computing world!
$
```

IN-CHAPTER EXERCISES

- 15.5.** Give commands for reading a value into the *myname* variable from the keyboard and exporting it so that commands executed in any child shell have access to the variable.
- 15.6.** Copy the value *myname* variable to another variable, *anyname*. Make the *anyname* variable readonly and **unset** both the *myname* and *anyname* variables. What happened? Show all your work.

Special Characters for the echo Command

■ **TABLE 15.3** Special Characters for the echo Command*

Character	Meaning
\b	Backspace
\c	Prints line without moving cursor to next line
\f	Form feed
\n	Newline (move cursor to next line)
\r	Carriage return
\t	Horizontal tab
\v	Vertical tab
\\\	Backslash (escape special meaning of backslash)
\ON	Character whose ASCII number is octal N

* You might have to use \\ instead of \ on some UNIX systems.

Passing Arguments to Shell Scripts

```
shift [N]
```

Purpose Shift the command line arguments *N* positions to the left

```
set [options] [argument-list]
```

Purpose Set values of the positional arguments to the arguments in ‘argument-list’ when executed without an argument, the **set** command displays the names of all shell variables and their current values

Passing Arguments to Shell Scripts

```
$ cat cmdargs_demo
#!/bin/sh
echo "The command name is: $0."
echo "The number of command line arguments passed as parameters are $#."
echo "The value of the command line arguments are: $1 $2 $3 $4 $5 $6 $7 $8 $9."
echo "Another way to display values of all of the arguments: $@."
echo "Yet another way is: $*."
exit 0
$ cmdargs_demo a b c d e f g h i
The command name is: cmdargs_demo.
The number of command line arguments passed as parameters are 9.
The value of the command line arguments are: a b c d e f g h i.
Another way to display values of all of the arguments: a b c d e f g h i.
Yet another way is: a b c d e f g h i.
$ cmdargs_demo One Two 3 Four 5 6
The command name is: cmdargs_demo.
The number of command line arguments passed as parameters are 6.
The value of the command line arguments are: One Two 3 Four 5 6 .
Another way to display values of all of the arguments: One Two 3 Four 5 6 .
Yet another way is: One Two 3 Four 5 6.
$
```

Passing Arguments to Shell Scripts

```
$ cat shift_demo
#!/bin/sh
echo "The program name is $0."
echo "The arguments are: $@"
echo "The first three arguments are: $1 $2 $3"
shift
echo "The program name is $0."
echo "The arguments are: $@"
echo "The first three arguments are: $1 $2 $3"
shift 3
echo "The program name is $0."
echo "The arguments are: $@"
echo "The first three arguments are: $1 $2 $3"
exit 0
$ shift_demo 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
The program name is shift_demo.
The arguments are: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
The first three arguments are: 1 2 3
The program name is shift_demo.
The arguments are: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
The first three arguments are: 2 3 4
The program name is shift_demo.
The arguments are: 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
The first three arguments are: 5 6 7
$
```

Passing Arguments to Shell Scripts

```
$ date  
Fri May 7 13:26:42 PDT 2004  
$ set `date`  
$ echo "$@"  
Fri May 7 13:26:42 PDT 2004  
$ echo "$2 $3, $6"  
May 7, 2004  
$
```

```
$ cat set_demo  
#!/bin/sh  
filename="$1"  
set `ls -il $filename`  
inode="$1"  
size="$6"  
echo "Name\tInode\tSize"  
echo  
echo "$filename\t$inode\t$size"  
exit 0  
  
$ set_demo lab3  
Name      Inode      Size  
lab3      856110      591  
$
```

IN-CHAPTER EXERCISES

- 15.7.** Write a shell script that displays all command line arguments, shifts them to the left by two positions and redisplays them. Show the script along with a few sample runs.
- 15.8.** Update the shell script in Exercise 15.7 so that, after accomplishing the original task, it sets the positional arguments to the output of the `who | head -1` command and displays the positional arguments again.

Comments and Program Headers

- Put comments in your programs to describe the purpose of a particular set of commands
- Use program header for every shell script you write, including:
 - Name of the file containing the script
 - Name of the author
 - Date written
 - Date last modified
 - Purpose of the script
 - A brief description of the algorithm used to implement the solution to the problem at hand

File Name: ~/Bourne/examples/set_demo
Author: Syed Mansoor Sarwar
Date Written: August 10, 1999
Date Last Modified: August 10, 1999
Purpose: To illustrate how the set command works
Brief Description: The script runs with a filename as the only command
line argument, saves the filename, runs the set
command to assign output of ls -il command to
positional arguments (\$1 through \$9), and displays
file name, its inode number, and its size in bytes.

Program Control Flow Commands

- Used to determine the sequence in which statements in a shell script execute
- The three basic types of statements for controlling flow of a script are:
 - Two-way branching
 - Multiway branching
 - Repetitive execution of one or more commands

Program Control Flow Commands

```
if expression  
  then  
    [elif expression  
     then  
       then-command-list]  
    ...  
    [else  
     else-command-list]  
fi
```

Purpose: To implement two-way or multiway branching

S Y N T A X

```
if expression  
  then  
    then-commands  
fi
```

Purpose: To implement two-way branching

S Y N T A X

SYNTAX
test [expression]
Or
[[expression]]

Purpose: To evaluate 'expression' and return true or false status

Program Control Flow Commands

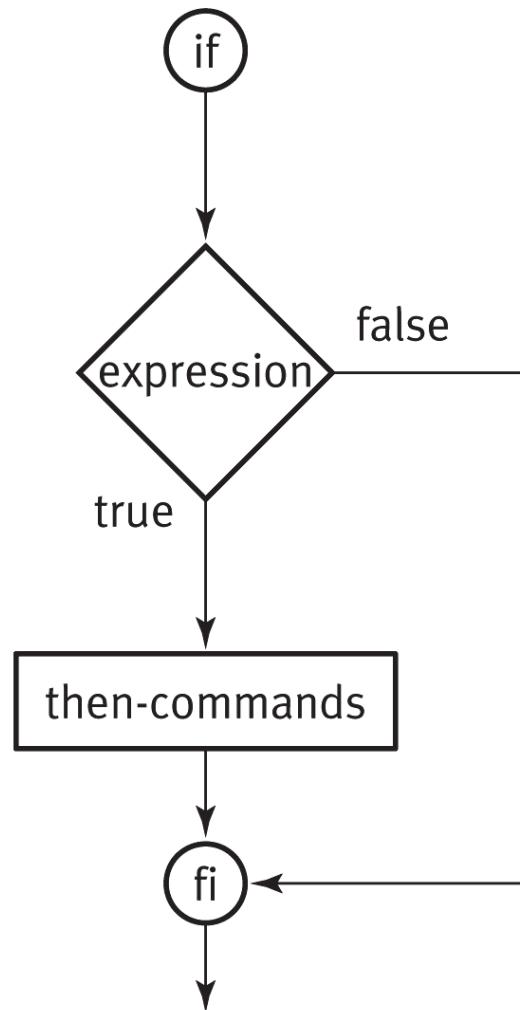


Figure 15.1 Semantics of the if-then-fi statement

Operators for the test Command

■ TABLE 15.4 Operators for the test Command

File Testing		Integer Testing		String Testing	
Expression	Return Value	Expression	Return Value	Expression	Return Value
-d file	True if ‘file’ is a directory	int1 -eq int2	True if ‘int1’ and ‘int2’ are equal	str	True if ‘str’ is not an empty string
-f file	True if ‘file’ is an ordinary file	int1 -ge int2	True if ‘int1’ is greater than or equal to ‘int2’	str1 = str2	True if ‘str1’ and ‘str2’ are the same
-r file	True if ‘file’ is readable	int1 -gt int2	True if ‘int1’ is greater than ‘int2’	str1 != str2	True if ‘str1’ and ‘str2’ are not the same
-s file	True if length of ‘file’ is nonzero	int1 -le int2	True if ‘int1’ is less than or equal to ‘int2’	-n str	True if the length of ‘str’ is greater than zero
-t [filedes]	True if file descriptor ‘filedes’ associated with the terminal	int1 -lt int2	True if ‘int1’ is less than ‘int2’	-z str	True if the length of ‘str’ is zero
-w file	True if ‘file’ is writable	int1 -ne int2	True if ‘int1’ is not equal to ‘int2’		
-x file	True if ‘file’ is executable				

```
$ cat if_demo1
#!/bin/sh
if test $# -eq 0
then
    echo "Usage: $0 ordinary_file"
    exit 1
fi
if test $# -gt 1
then
    echo "Usage: $0 ordinary_file"
    exit 1
fi
if test -f "$1"
then
    filename="$1"
    set `ls -il $filename`
    inode="$1"
    size="$6"
    echo "Name\tInode\tSize"
    echo
    echo "$filename\t$inode\t$size"
    exit 0
fi
echo "$0: argument must be an ordinary file"
exit 1
```

```
$ if_demo1
Usage: if_demo1 ordinary_file
$ if_demo1 lab3 lab4
Usage: if_demo1 ordinary_file
$ if_demo1 dir1
if_demo1: argument must be an ordinary file
$ if_demo1 lab3
Name      Inode      Size
lab3      856110      591
$
```

Program Control Flow Commands

```
if expression
  then
    then-command
  else
    else-command
fi
```

Purpose: To implement two-way branching

S Y N T A X

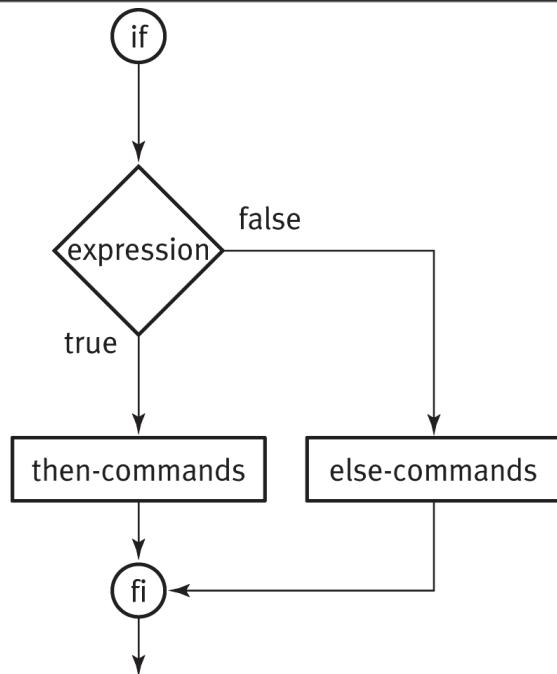


Figure 15.2 Semantics of the if-then-else-fi statement

Example Script

```
$ cat if_demo2
#!/bin/sh
if [ $# -eq 0 ]
then
    echo "Usage: $0 ordinary_file"
    exit 1
fi
if [ $# -gt 1 ]
then
    echo "Usage: $0 ordinary_file"
    exit 1
fi
if [ -f "$1" ]
then
    filename="$1"
    set `ls -il $filename`
    inode="$1"
    size="$6"
    echo "Name\tInode\tSize"
    echo "$filename\t$inode\t$size"
    exit 0
else
    echo "$0: argument must be an ordinary file"
    exit 1
fi
$
```

Program Control Flow Commands

S Y N T A X

```
if expression1
  then
    thenCommands
  elif expression2
    elif1Commands
  elif expression3
    elif2Commands
  ...
  else
    elseCommand
fi
```

Purpose: To implement multiway branching

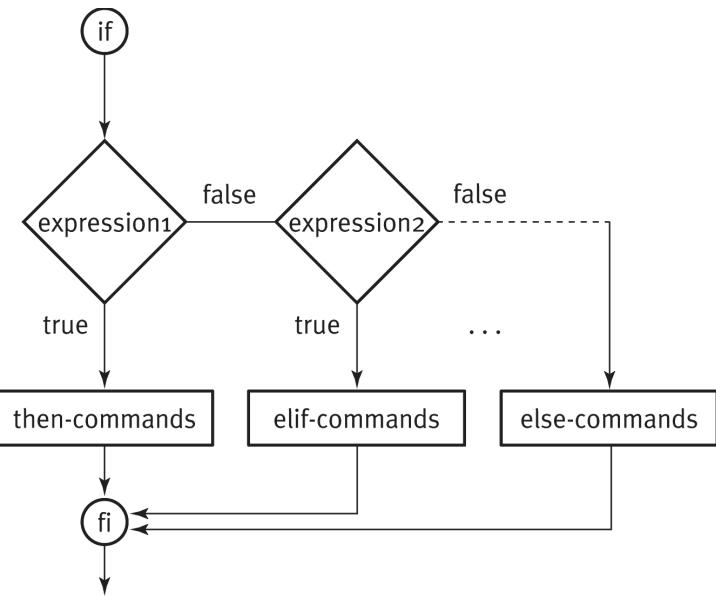


Figure 15.3 Semantics of the if-then-elif-else-fi statement

Example Script

```
$ cat if_demo3
#!/bin/sh
if [ $# -eq 0 ]
then
    echo "Usage: $0 file"
    exit 1
elif [ $# -gt 1 ]
then
    echo "Usage: $0 file"
    exit 1
elif [ -d "$1" ]
then
    nfiles=`ls "$1" | wc -w`
    echo "The number of files : $nfiles"
    exit 0
else
    ls "$1" 2> /dev/null | grep "$1" 2> /dev/null 1>&2
    if [ $? -ne 0 ]
    then
        echo "$1: not found"
        exit 1
    fi
    if [ -f "$1" ]
    then
        filename="$1"
        set `ls -il $filename`
        # Please see the warning at the end of section 15.4
        shift 4
        inode="$1"
        size="$6"
        echo "Name\tInode\tSize"
        echo
        echo "$filename\t$inode\t$size"
        exit 0
    else
        echo "$0: argument must be an ordinary file or directory"
        exit 1
    fi
fi
```

Program Control Flow Commands

```
$ if_demo3 /bin/ls
      Name      Inode      Size

      /bin/ls    50638     18844

$ if_demo3 file1
file1: not found

$ if_demo3 dir1
The number of files in the directory is 4

$ if_demo3 lab3
      Name      Inode      Size

      lab3    856110       591

$
```

IN-CHAPTER EXERCISES

- 15.9.** Create the `if_demo2` script file and run it with no argument, more than one argument, and one argument only. While running the script with one argument, use a directory as the argument. What happens? Does the output make sense?

- 15.10.** Write a shell script whose single command line argument is a file. If you run the program with an ordinary file, the program displays the owner's name and last update time for the file. If the program is run with more than one argument, it generates meaningful error messages.

The for Statement

S Y N T A X

```
for variable [in argument-list]
do
  command-list
done
```

Purpose:

To execute commands in 'command-list' as many times as the number of words in the 'argument-list'; without the optional part, 'in argument-list', the arguments are supplied at the command

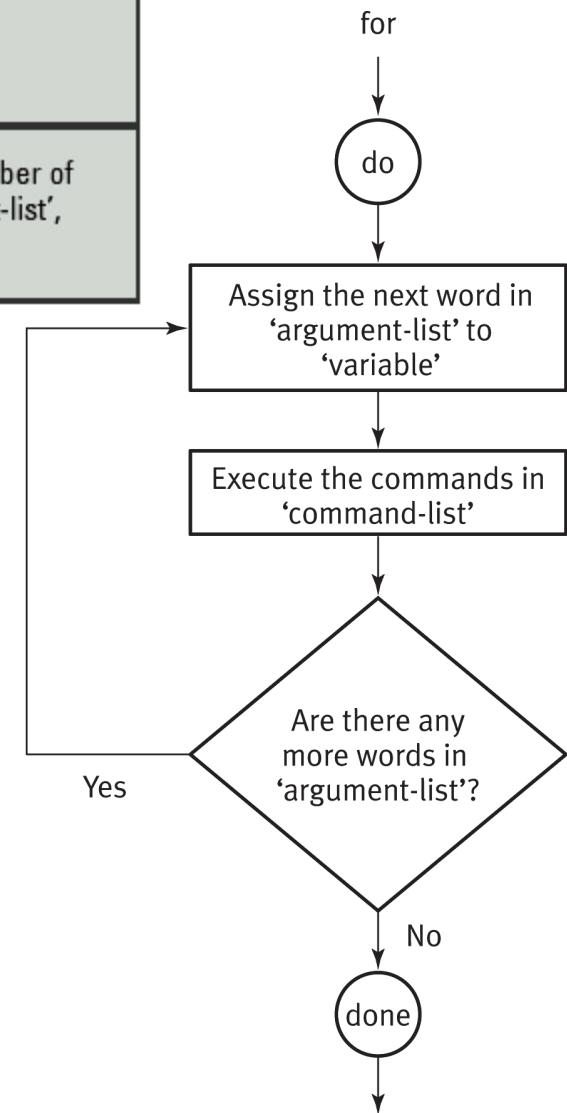


Figure 15.4 Semantics of the `for` statement

The for Statement

```
$ cat for_demo1
#!/bin/sh
for people in Debbie Jamie John Kitty Kuhn Shah
do
    echo "$people"
done
exit 0
$ for_demo1
Debbie
Jamie
John
Kitty
Kuhn
Shah
$
```

The for Statement

```
$ cat user_info
#!/bin/sh
for user
do
# Don't display anything if a login name is not found in /etc/passwd
grep "^$user:" /etc/passwd 1> /dev/null 2>&1
if [ $? -eq 0 ]
    echo "$user:\t\c"
    grep "^$user:" /etc/passwd | cut -f5 -d':'
fi
done
exit 0
$ user_info dheckman ghacker msarwar
dheckman: Dennis R. Heckman
ghacker: George Hacker
msarwar: Mansoor Sarwar
$
```

The while statement

S Y N T A X

```
while expression
do
  command-list
done
```

Purpose: To execute commands in 'command-list' as long as 'expression' evaluates to true

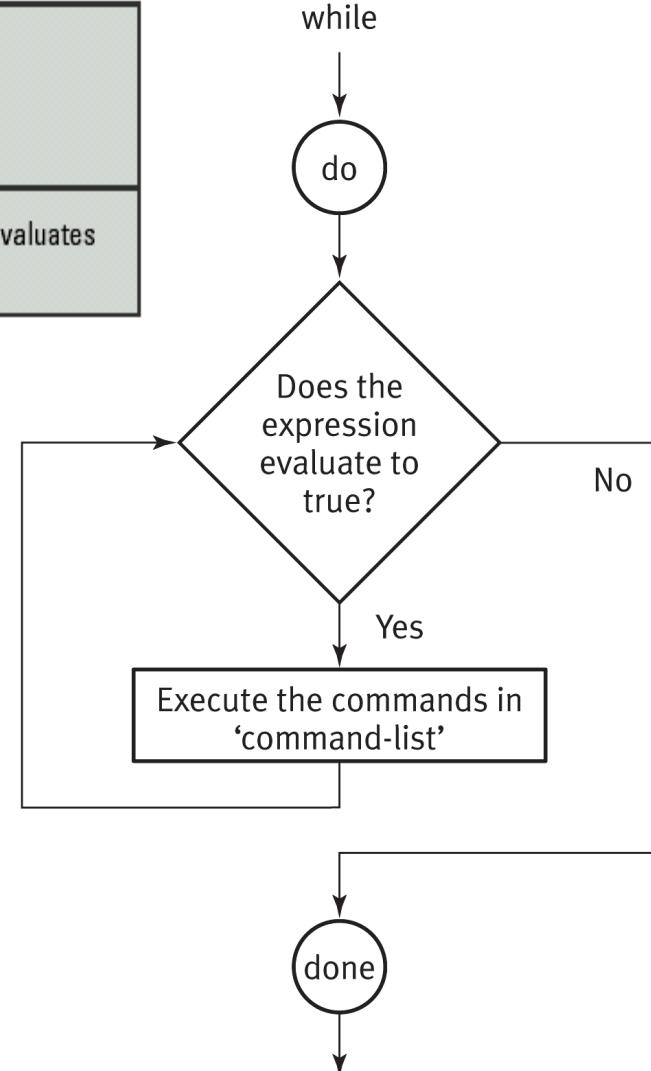


Figure 15.5 Semantics of the while statement

The while statement

```
$ cat while_demo
#!/bin/sh
secretcode=agent007
echo "Guess the code!"
echo "Enter your guess: \c"
read yourguess
while [ "$secretcode" != "$yourguess" ]
do
echo "Good guess but wrong. Try again!"
echo "Enter your guess: \c"
read yourguess
done
echo "Wow! You are a genius!!"
exit 0
$ while_demo
```

```
Guess the code!
Enter your guess: star wars
Good guess but wrong. Try again!
Enter your guess: columbo
Good guess but wrong. Try again!
Enter your guess: agent007
Wow! You are a genius!!
$
```

The until Statement

S Y N T A X

```
until expression
do
  command-list
done
```

Purpose: To execute commands in 'command-list' as long as 'expression' evaluates to false

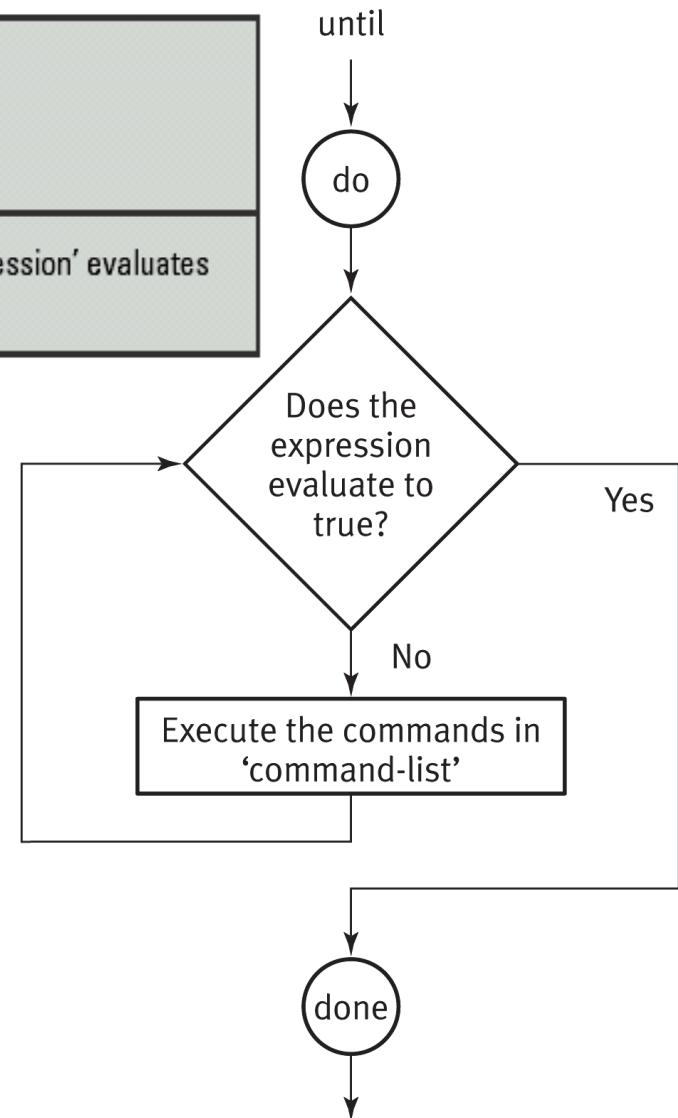


Figure 15.6 Semantics of the until statement

The until Statement

```
$ cat until_demo
#!/bin/sh
secretcode=agent007
echo "Guess the code!"
echo "Enter your guess: \c"
read yourguess
until [ "$secretcode" = "$yourguess" ]
do
    echo "Good guess but wrong. Try again!"
    echo "Enter your guess: \c"
    read yourguess
done
echo "Wow! You are a genius!!"
exit 0
```

```
$ until_demo
Guess the code!
Enter your guess: Inspector Gadget
Good guess but wrong. Try again!
Enter your guess: Peter Sellers
Good guess but wrong. Try again!
Enter your guess: agent007
Wow! You are a genius!!
$
```

The break and continue Statements

```
while condition
```

```
do
```

```
    cmd1
```

```
    ...
```

```
    break
```

```
    ...
```

```
    cmdN
```

```
done
```

```
echo "..."
```

```
...
```

This iteration is over
and there are no more
iterations.

```
while condition
```

```
do
```

```
    cmd1
```

```
    ...
```

```
    continue
```

```
    ...
```

```
    cmdN
```

```
done
```

```
echo "..."
```

```
...
```

This iteration is
over; do the next
iteration.

Figure 15.7 Semantics of the break and continue commands

IN-CHAPTER EXERCISES

- 15.11.** Write a shell script that takes a list of host names on your network as command line arguments and displays whether the hosts are up or down. Use the `ping` command to display the status of a host and the `for` statement to process all host names.
- 15.12.** Rewrite the script in Exercise 15.11, using the `while` statement. Rewrite it again, using the `until` statement.

The case Statement

```
case test-string in
  pattern1) command-list1
  ;
  pattern2) command-list2
  ;;
...
  patternN) command-listN
  ;;
esac
```

S Y N T A X

Purpose: To implement multiway branching like a nested if

The case Statement

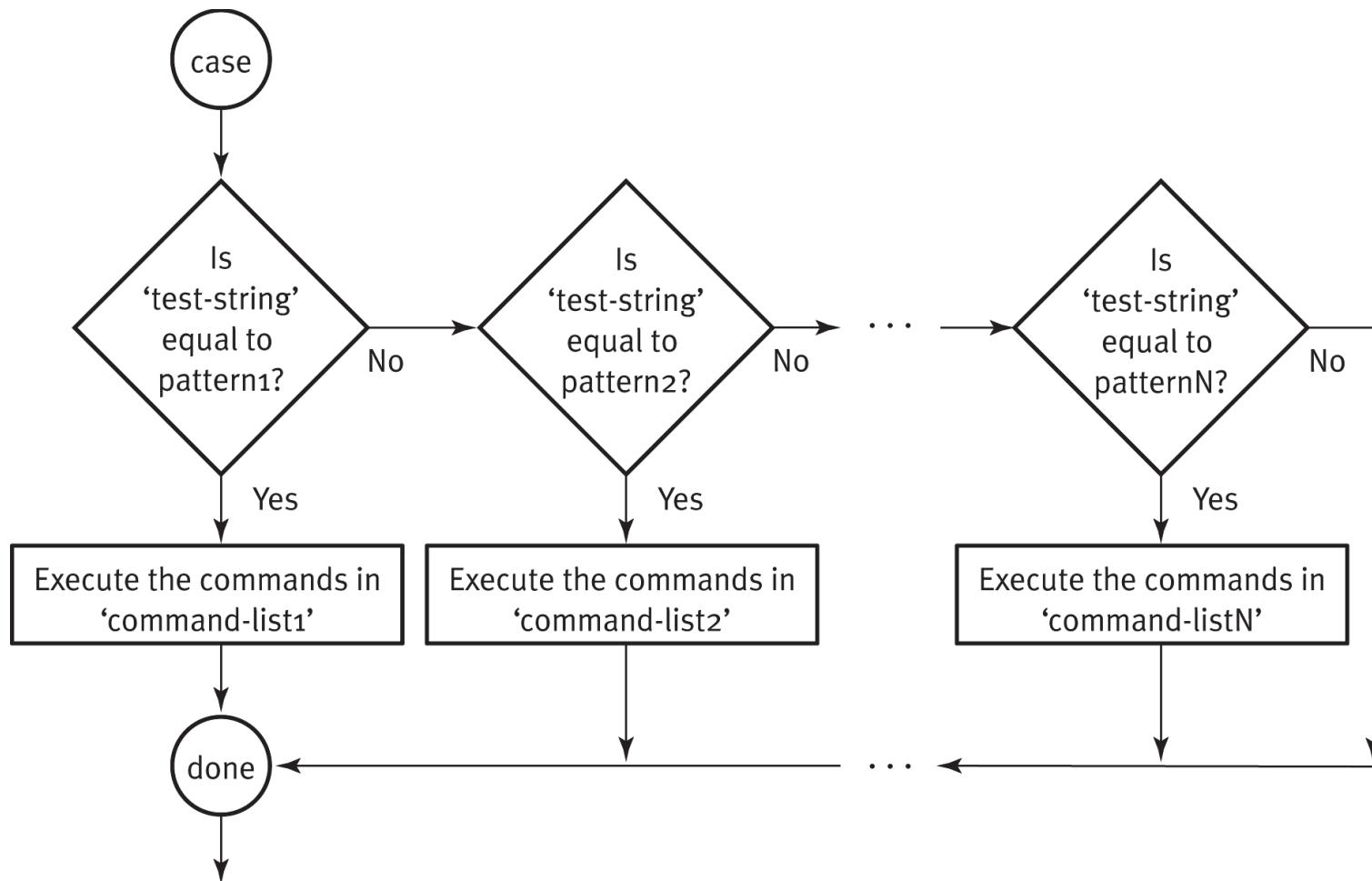


Figure 15.8 Semantics of the `case` statement

The case Statement

```
$ cat case_demo
#!/bin/sh

echo " Use one of the following options:"
echo " d or D: To display today's date and present time"
echo " l or L: To see the listing of files in your present working directory"
echo " w or W: To see who's logged in"
echo " q or Q: To quit this program"
echo "Enter your option and hit <Enter>: \c"
read option

case "$option" in
    d|D)      date
              ;;
    l|L)      ls
              ;;
    w|W)      who
              ;;
    q|Q)      exit 0
              ;;
    *)        echo "Invalid option; try running the program again."
              exit 1
              ;;

esac

exit 0
$
```

The case Statement

```
$ case_demo
```

Use one of the following options:

d or D: To display today's date and present time

l or L: To see the listing of files in your present working directory

w or W: To see who is logged in

q or Q: To quit this program

Enter your option and hit <Enter>: D

```
Sat June 12 18:14:22 PDT 2004
```

```
$ case_demo
```

Use one of the following options:

d or D: To display today's date and present time

l or L: To see the listing of files in your present working directory

w or W: To see who is logged in

q or Q: To quit this program

Enter your option and hit <Enter>: a

Invalid option; try running the program again.

```
$
```