**PS1**

If you’re going to spend a lot of time at a shell you might as well enjoy it, right? You can embed information into your command prompt to give you context. Do you work on multiple servers throughout the day? Put the name of the server in the command prompt and never face the embarrassment of running the right command on the wrong server!

The command prompt is stored in an environment variable called **PS1**.

$ PS1="Your wish master? "  
Your wish master?

While that command prompt is sure to stroke your ego it is not that informative. Bash implements several special macros that are expanded each time the prompt is rendered.

$ PS1="\h:\w\$ "  
bob:~/tmp$

In the preceding example the **\h** is expanded to the short name of the host, the **\w** becomes the current directory, and the **\$** is **$** for regular users and **#** for root.

The list of possible macros are as follows:



