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| Originally Posted by **presul** [View Post](http://www.unix.com/solaris/161775-export-vs-env-vs-set-commands-post302531834.html#post302531834)  *What does it mean to make a value of variable known to a sub-shell ?* |

Code:

[root@linux ~]# x=5 <= here variable is set without export command

[root@linux ~]# echo $x

5

[root@linux ~]# bash <= subshell creation

[root@linux ~]# echo $x <= subshell doesnt know $x variable value

[root@linux ~]# exit <= exit from subshell

exit

[root@linux ~]# echo $x <= parent shell still knows $x variable

5

[root@linux ~]# export x=5 <= specify $x variable value using export command

[root@linux ~]# echo $x <= parent shell doesn't see any difference from the first declaration

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[root@linux ~]# bash <= create subshell again

[root@linux ~]# echo $x <= now the subshell knows $x variable value

5

[root@linux ~]#

When you create a shell variable, you will often want to export it to the environment so it will be available to other processes (subshells of current shell) that you start from this shell. Variables that you export are **not** available to a parent shell of the current shell. You use the export command to export a variable name. As a shortcut in bash, you can assign a value and export a variable in one step.

After using export command, to make this settings permanent (which means Set Environment Variables on Linux): we use .bash\_profile file. Bash\_profile file runs every cmds in it everytime we login.

Add below line to .bash\_profile file

export abc=123

After adding an environment variables, you use env command to check if that variable is added or not.

[root@localhost ~]# env

XDG\_SESSION\_ID=2

HOSTNAME=localhost.localdomain

SELINUX\_ROLE\_REQUESTED=

TERM=xterm

SHELL=/bin/bash

HISTSIZE=1000

SSH\_CLIENT=192.168.100.6 61906 22

SELINUX\_USE\_CURRENT\_RANGE=

SSH\_TTY=/dev/pts/0

USER=root

LS\_COLORS=rs=0:di=01;34:ln=01;36:mh=00:pi=40;33:so=01;35:do=01;35:bd=40;33;01:cd=40;33;01:or=40;31;01:mi=01;05;37;41:su=37;41:sg=30;43:ca=30;41:tw=30;42:ow=34;42:st=37;44:ex=01;32:\*.tar=01;31:\*.tgz=01;31:\*.arc=01;31:\*.arj=01;31:\*.taz=01;31:\*.lha=01;31:\*.lz4=01;31:\*.lzh=01;31:\*.lzma=01;31:\*.tlz=01;31:\*.txz=01;31:\*.tzo=01;31:\*.t7z=01;31:\*.zip=01;31:\*.z=01;31:\*.Z=01;31:\*.dz=01;31:\*.gz=01;31:\*.lrz=01;31:\*.lz=01;31:\*.lzo=01;31:\*.xz=01;31:\*.bz2=01;31:\*.bz=01;31:\*.tbz=01;31:\*.tbz2=01;31:\*.tz=01;31:\*.deb=01;31:\*.rpm=01;31:\*.jar=01;31:\*.war=01;31:\*.ear=01;31:\*.sar=01;31:\*.rar=01;31:\*.alz=01;31:\*.ace=01;31:\*.zoo=01;31:\*.cpio=01;31:\*.7z=01;31:\*.rz=01;31:\*.cab=01;31:\*.jpg=01;35:\*.jpeg=01;35:\*.gif=01;35:\*.bmp=01;35:\*.pbm=01;35:\*.pgm=01;35:\*.ppm=01;35:\*.tga=01;35:\*.xbm=01;35:\*.xpm=01;35:\*.tif=01;35:\*.tiff=01;35:\*.png=01;35:\*.svg=01;35:\*.svgz=01;35:\*.mng=01;35:\*.pcx=01;35:\*.mov=01;35:\*.mpg=01;35:\*.mpeg=01;35:\*.m2v=01;35:\*.mkv=01;35:\*.webm=01;35:\*.ogm=01;35:\*.mp4=01;35:\*.m4v=01;35:\*.mp4v=01;35:\*.vob=01;35:\*.qt=01;35:\*.nuv=01;35:\*.wmv=01;35:\*.asf=01;35:\*.rm=01;35:\*.rmvb=01;35:\*.flc=01;35:\*.avi=01;35:\*.fli=01;35:\*.flv=01;35:\*.gl=01;35:\*.dl=01;35:\*.xcf=01;35:\*.xwd=01;35:\*.yuv=01;35:\*.cgm=01;35:\*.emf=01;35:\*.axv=01;35:\*.anx=01;35:\*.ogv=01;35:\*.ogx=01;35:\*.aac=01;36:\*.au=01;36:\*.flac=01;36:\*.mid=01;36:\*.midi=01;36:\*.mka=01;36:\*.mp3=01;36:\*.mpc=01;36:\*.ogg=01;36:\*.ra=01;36:\*.wav=01;36:\*.axa=01;36:\*.oga=01;36:\*.spx=01;36:\*.xspf=01;36:

MAIL=/var/spool/mail/root

PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/root/bin

abc=123

PWD=/root

LANG=en\_US.UTF-8

SELINUX\_LEVEL\_REQUESTED=

HISTCONTROL=ignoredups

SHLVL=1

HOME=/root

LOGNAME=root

SSH\_CONNECTION=192.168.100.6 61906 192.168.100.101 22

LESSOPEN=||/usr/bin/lesspipe.sh %s

XDG\_RUNTIME\_DIR=/run/user/0

\_=/usr/bin/env

To remove environment variable, we use below command:

unset abc