**Table 2. Some common bash environment variables**

| **Name** | **Function** |
| --- | --- |
| USER | The name of the logged-in user |
| UID | The numeric user id of the logged-in user |
| HOME | The user's home directory |
| PWD | The current working directory |
| SHELL | The name of the shell |
| $ | The process id (or *PID*of the running bash shell (or other) process |
| PPID | The process id of the process that started this process (that is, the id of the parent process) |
| ? | The exit code of the last command |

Listing 7 shows what you might see in some of these common bash variables.

**Listing 7. Environment and shell variables**

[ian@atticf20 ~]$ echo $USER $UID

ian 1000

[ian@atticf20 ~]$ echo $SHELL $HOME $PWD

/bin/bash /home/ian /home/ian

[ian@atticf20 ~]$ (exit 0);echo $?;(exit 4);echo $?

0

4

[ian@atticf20 ~]$ echo $$ $PPID

3175 2457

Globbing

?

matches any single character.

\*

matches any string, including an empty string.

[abc] A match means matching any single character enclosed by the brackets. Match a or match b or match c...