

# Getting Meta Information in Bash

Explore the commands used to retrieve details about Shell and meta information about commands.

## Finding Out Your Default Shell

To find out what your default interpreter is, type this in the command window:

```
ps $$
```



The following sample output shows that we are using Bash Shell:

PID	TT	STAT	TIME	COMMAND
4755	s000	S	0:00.02	-bash



Now, to find out the *full execution* path of your shell interpreter, you can type `which bash`

```
which shell  
/bin/bash
```



Similarly, you can use or `echo $SHELL` for this same purpose:

```
echo $SHELL  
/bin/bash
```



## Changing Your Default Shell

If your default shell is some other than **bash**, you can conveniently change your shell to bash by entering:

```
chsh -s /bin/bash
```



# Getting Command Information in Linux

You can view the official documentation by typing `man` *command* or `info` *command* in the terminal. For example, to open the *manpage* of `cal` command, we use:

```
man cal
```



...and to open the documentation of `date` command, we will run this:

```
info date
```

