**Linux: List All Environment Variables Command**

last updated October 12, 2013 **in Categories**[**BASH Shell**](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/bash-shell/)**,**[**Commands**](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/commands/)**,**[**Linux**](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/linux/)

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How do I display all my environment variables using bash shell on RHEL / Debian / Ubuntu / CentOS / Fedora / Mint Linux operating systems?  
  
You can use any one of the following command to display the environment variables and their values.

a) **printenv** command – Print all or part of environment.

b) **env** command – Print all exported environment or run a program in a modified environment.

c) **set** command – Print the name and value of each shell variable.

**Examples**

I recommend that you use the printenv command:

|  |
| --- |
| printenv |

OR

|  |
| --- |
| printenv **|** **less** |

OR

|  |
| --- |
| printenv **|** **more** |

Sample outputs:

[](https://www.cyberciti.biz/media/new/images/faq/2013/10/printenv.png)Fig.01: Command to see a list of all currently defined environment variables in a Linux bash terminal

**A list of the commonly used variables in Linux**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **System Variable** | **Meaning** | **To View Variable Value Type** |
| BASH\_VERSION | Holds the version of this instance of bash. | echo $BASH\_VERSION |
| HOSTNAME | The name of the your computer. | echo $HOSTNAME |
| CDPATH | The search path for the cd command. | echo $CDPATH |
| HISTFILE | The name of the file in which command history is saved. | echo $HISTFILE |
| HISTFILESIZE | The maximum number of lines contained in the history file. | echo $HISTFILESIZE |
| HISTSIZE | The number of commands to remember in the command history. The default value is 500. | echo $HISTSIZE |
| HOME | The home directory of the current user. | echo $HOME |
| IFS | The Internal Field Separator that is used for word splitting after expansion and to split lines into words with the read builtin command. The default value is <space><tab><newline>. | echo $IFS |
| LANG | Used to determine the locale category for any category not specifically selected with a variable starting with LC\_. | echo $LANG |
| PATH | The search path for commands. It is a colon-separated list of directories in which the shell looks for commands. | echo $PATH |
| PS1 | Your prompt settings. | echo $PS1 |
| TMOUT | The default timeout for the read builtin command. Also in an interactive shell, the value is interpreted as the number of seconds to wait for input after issuing the command. If not input provided it will logout user. | echo $TMOUT |
| TERM | Your login terminal type. | echo $TERM export TERM=vt100 |
| SHELL | Set path to login shell. | echo $SHELL |
| DISPLAY | Set X display name | echo $DISPLAY export DISPLAY=:0.1 |
| EDITOR | Set name of default text editor. | export EDITOR=/usr/bin/vim |

**set and env command**

You can use the env / set command too:

|  |
| --- |
| **env**  **env** **|** **more**  **set**  **set** **|** **more** |

Sample outputs:

HOME=/home/vivek

vivek@nas01:~$ env

TERM=xterm-256color

SHELL=/bin/bash

XDG\_SESSION\_COOKIE=9ee90112ba2cb349f07bfe2f00002e46-1381581541.324726-906214463

SSH\_CLIENT=192.168.1.6 60190 22

SSH\_TTY=/dev/pts/1

USER=vivek

MAIL=/var/mail/vivek

PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/usr/local/games:/usr/games

PWD=/home/vivek

LANG=en\_IN

SHLVL=1

HOME=/home/vivek

LANGUAGE=en\_IN:en

LOGNAME=vivek

SSH\_CONNECTION=192.168.1.6 60190 192.168.1.10 22

\_=/usr/bin/env

**A NOTE ABOUT ENV/SET COMMAND**

The env will only display a list of environment variables that have been exported and it will not show all bash variables. The set command allows you to change the values of shell options and set the positional parameters, or to display the names and values of shell variables. If no options or arguments are supplied, set displays the names and values of all shell variables and functions, sorted according to the current locale, in a format that may be reused as input for setting or resetting the currently-set variables. Hence, I recommend that you use printenv command to dump the list of all shell variables on screen. To save the list of all shell environment variables to a file, enter:

|  |
| --- |
| printenv **>** env.txt  **cat** env.txt |

Use the [grep command](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-use-grep-command-in-linux-unix/" \o "See Linux/Unix grep command examples for more info) to search for particular variable:

|  |
| --- |
| printenv **|** **grep** foo  printenv **|** **grep** HOME |

**Recommend readings**

* [Bash shell variables](https://bash.cyberciti.biz/guide/Variables) from the Linux shell scripting wiki.
* Man pages: printenv(1),bash(1),env(1)