

Bash 101

Intro to Shell Scripting

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JP Vossen, CISSP
bashcookbook.com

http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/bash_101.pdf
http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/bash_101.odp

Agenda

- What is a “shell” and a “shell script?”
- Why should I care?
- How do I get started?
- Prompts, positional parameters & STDIO
- Anatomy of *'cdburn'*
- Programming bash
- Settings I can't live without
- Revision Control
- What did we miss?
- What about Mac & Windows?
- What next?
- URLs, Wrap up and Q&A

What is a “shell?”

- A program that provides an interface to an operating system (which is itself an interface to the hardware)
- May be CLI or GUI
 - CLI = command line interface
 - GUI = graphical user interface
- May have more than one available
 - Bourne (sh), Bourne Again Shell (bash), Korn (ksh)
 - zsh, fish, csh, tcsh, many, many others
 - Unity, Cinnamon, Mate, KDE, Gnome, CDE, Presentation Manager, Workplace Shell, many, many others

What is a “shell script?”

- Fundamentally just a list of commands to run
 - May use arguments, variables, various control logic and arithmetic to figure out what to run when
 - bash is integer only, other shells may not be
- Plain text file
- Used on CLI only
- Builds on:
 - The “Unix” tool philosophy
 - The “Unix” everything-is-a-file philosophy

Why should I care?

- You can write new commands!
 - Save time & effort and make life easier
 - E.g., if you always type in four commands to accomplish some task, type them once into an editor, add a “shebang” line and comments, save and set execute permissions. You now have a shell script!
- Automation
 - cron
- Consistency & Reliability
- (Process) Documentation
- One-liners
- If you suffer from CRS (Can't Remember...Crap)

How do I get started?

- Fire up an editor
 - `#!/bin/bash -`
`echo 'Hello world, my first shell script!'`
 - `chmod +x script`
- `bash 'help'` command!
 - `'help set'` vs. `'man set'`
- A lot of a Linux system is run by shell scripts. They are everywhere, find some and read them.
 - Everything in `/etc/init.d/`
 - (yeah, yeah, *systemd*, I know, I know...)
 - `for i in /bin/*; do file $i | grep -q 'shell script' && echo $i; done`
You will be surprised!

A Word About Prompts

- <http://www.tldp.org/HOWTO/Bash-Prompt-HOWTO/index.html>
- PS1 is the interactive prompt (default '\s-\v\\$ ', varies by distro)
 - PS1='\n[\u@\h:T\l:L\$SHLVL:C\!:J\j:\D{%Y-%m-%d_%H:%M:%S_%Z}]\n\$PWD\\$ '
 - [user@hostname:T0:L1:C924:J0:2011-02-08_17:42:33_EST] /home/user/Documents/Presentations\$
- PS2 is the continuation prompt (default is '>' which is OK)
 - PS2='>'
- PS3 is the 'select' prompt (default of '#?' is kinda useless)
 - PS3='What now?'
- PS4 is the debug (trace) prompt (default of '+' is kinda useless)
 - PS4='+xtrace \$LINENO: '
 - PS4='+xtrace \$BASH_SOURCE::\$FUNCNAME-\$LINENO:'
- PS0 (new in bash 4.4) is displayed by interactive shells after reading a command and before the command is executed

Positional Parameters

- “Main” script:
 \$0 \$1 \$2 \$3
myscript foo bar baz
- \$0 is what's running, \$BASH_SOURCE is where it (e.g, \$FUNCNAME) came from
- \$# = number of parms
- \$* = "\$1 \$2 \$3" # a single string of all parms, separated by first character of \$IFS (Internal Field Separator)
- "\$@" = "\$1" "\$2" .. "\$N" # For re-use later
- Reset inside a function
 - \$1 = first arg to function, not script
 - But use \$FUNCNAME instead of \$0

Standard Input, Output & Error

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_streams
- STDIN = standard input, usually from the keyboard or another program via a pipeline or redirection
- STDOUT = standard output, to terminal, pipeline or redirection (buffered)
 - `echo 'Hello World!'`
- STDERR = standard error, to terminal, pipeline or redirection but allows errors to be seen even if STDOUT is piped or redirected (not buffered)
 - `echo 'World Hello!' >&2`

Anatomy 1

- “Shebang” line → `/bin/sh -ne /bin/bash`
 - `#!/bin/sh -`
 - `#!/bin/bash -`
 - `#!/usr/bin/env bash`
- Comment line
 - `# name--description`
 - `# cdburn--Trivially burn ISO images to disc`
- Version control line (optional, depends)
 - `# Id`
 - `VERSION='$Version: 1.1 $' # CVS/SVN`
 - `# VERSION='ver 1.2.3' # Hard-code`

Anatomy 2: Usage

```
if [ "$1" = "-h" -o "$1" = "--help" -o -z "$1" ]; then
```

```
  cat <<-EoU
```

```
    $0 $VERSION
```

```
    Trivially burn ISO images to disc
```

```
    Usage: $0 </path/to/iso>
```

```
    e.g. $0 /home/jp/CD-image/image.iso
```

```
  EoU
```

```
  exit 1    # or 'exit 0'?
```

```
fi
```

Anatomy 3: Sanity Checks

```
speed=""          # Use burner default (2x ' not ")
# Make sure we have a burner
if [ -x /usr/bin/wodim ]; then
    # Debian, Ubuntu
    CDBURNER='/usr/bin/wodim'
elif [ -x /usr/bin/cdrecord ]; then
    # CentOS, etc.
    CDBURNER='/usr/bin/cdrecord'
else
    echo "FATAL: Can't find wodim or cdrecord! Is either
installed?"
    exit 1
fi
```

Anatomy 4: guts

```
ISO="$1"
```

```
[ -r "$ISO" ] || {  
    echo "FATAL: ISO '$ISO' not found or not  
readable!"  
    exit 2  
}
```

```
PS4="  # That is ' and ', not "
```

```
set -x  # "debug"; will display cmd then run it
```

```
### >> setting $speed shown later <<
```

```
$CDBURNER -v -eject -dao $speed padsize=63s -  
pad "$ISO"
```

Notice...

- The code (“guts”) that actually does the work is usually only a tiny amount of code.
- 70-95% of the code is usually the “user interface:”
 - Prevent mistakes
 - Give useful feedback
- Code for GUI's (Graphical User Interfaces) is even worse; it's larger and almost all of the code is “interface” with only a tiny bit being guts.

“Programming” bash

- programming language
- basic operation is invocation = you run stuff
- variables
 - integers
 - strings
 - arrays (bash 4+ has “associative arrays” AKA hashes)
- control structures
 - branching / conditionals
 - looping

debugging

- DO NOT CALL YOUR TEST SCRIPT 'test'!
- PS4='+xtrace \$LINENO: '
 - First character is duplicated to show nesting level, that's why I have '+' there
 - \$LINENO should be in the default PS4 prompt!
- `bash -n path/to/script` # gross syntax check
- `bash -x path/to/script` # run-time debugging
- `set -x & set +x` # debug on / off
- `set -v & set +v` # verbose on / off

Quotes

- The shell re-writes the line
- White space is a delimiter!
- Quoting
 - Use ' ' unless you are interpolating \$variables, then use " "
 - `echo 'foo'`
 - `echo "$foo"`
 - `grep 'foo' /path/to/file`
 - `grep "$regex" /path/to/file`
- Quoting can make your head hurt

Variables

- USE GOOD NAMES!!!
- No \$ or spaces around = when assigning:
foo='bar'
foo="bar\$baz"
- \$ when referencing value:
echo "\$foo"
- Append:
foo="\$foo bar"
- Needs \${} if variable followed by [a-zA-Z_0-9]
foo="foo \$bar baz" # OK
foo="foo\${bar}baz" # \$bar needs \${}

Command Substitution

- Old way (backticks):
` `
- New way, easier to read and nest:
\$()
- Example:
lines_in_file=\$(wc -l \$file | awk '{print \$1}')
- lines_in_file=\$(wc -l < \$file)
- The effect is to pull outside data into your script, which is really useful.

I/O Redirection

- `command > output`
 - `ls > mydir.txt` # create or truncate
 - `ls >> mydir.txt` # create or append
- `command < input`
 - `wc < mydata`
- `command1 | command2` # AKA pipeline
 - `ls -l | wc -l`
- `cmd > outfile 2> errfile`
- `cmd > logfile 2>&1` # or just `>&`
- `cmd 2>&1 | next command`

If .. then .. else .. fi

- ```
if ["$1" = "-h" -o "$1" = "--help" -o -z "$1"]; then
 stuff
elif grep -q "$pattern" "$file"; then
 stuff
else
 stuff
fi
```
- ```
if grep -q "$pattern" "$file"; then
    echo "Found '$pattern' in '$file'!"
    exit 0
else
    echo "Did not find '$pattern' in '$file'!"
    exit 1
fi
```

for .. do .. done

- Execute commands for each member in a list
 - `for i in /bin/*; do file $i | grep -q 'shell script' && echo $i; done`
 - `for i in /bin/*; do
 file $i | grep -q 'shell script' && echo $i
done`
- `for partition in 1 2 3; do mdadm --add /dev/md$partition /dev/sda$partition; done`
- `for file in *.JPG; do echo mv -v $file ${file/JPG/jpg}; done`
 - Could also just lower case the entire name: `${file,,}`
- `for octet in $(seq 1 254); do host 192.168.1.$octet; done | grep -v 'NXDOMAIN)'`
- `for n in $(seq -w 1 15); do echo "host$n:" ; echo ssh -i ~/.ssh/key host$n 'df -hl'; done`

case .. esac

- “Execute commands based on pattern matching”
(set \$speed for “guts” example above)

```
case "$HOSTNAME" in
```

```
drake* ) speed='speed=24' ;; # GCC-4244N, Write:  
24x CD-R, Rewrite: 24x CDRW, Read: 8x DVD ROM,  
24x CDROM
```

```
ringo* ) speed='speed=48' ;; # Man.Part# : G9P3H /  
Dell Part# : 318-0037
```

```
* ) speed='speed=4' ;; # Ancient default, but it  
worked
```

```
esac
```

select .. done

- Sort-of trivially create a user menu
 - “Sort-of” because you need to get your logic right
 - Trivial example without any error or other checking or an “exit” option:

```
PS3='Choose a file: '
```

```
select file in $dir/*; do
```

```
    echo "$file" && break
```

```
done
```


docs

- “here-document”
 - Must use TAB, not space to indent when using '<<-!!!'
 - `cat <<EoF` `cat <<-EoF` # Interpolated
 - `cat <<'EoF'` `cat <<-'EoF'` # Not interpolated
- Comments
 - May be stand-alone or in-line after code
 - # Stand-alone comment
 - `ls -la /root # Long list including hidden files of /root`
- In-line POD (Perl's Plain Old Documentation), or Markdown, or whatever
 - `pod2html`, `pod2latex`, `pod2man`, `pod2text`, `pod2usage`
 - Use a NoOp + here-document
 - `: <<'POD'`

functions

- Must be defined **before** they are used! Bash is processed top-down (not like Perl, etc.)
- There's a bunch of ways to define them, I like:
 - ```
function foo {
 <code goes here>
}
```
- \$1, \$2 .. \$N get reset inside the function
  - Use \$FUNCNAME instead of \$0
  - Should also use 'local' keyword for scope
- CAN'T pass values back out like you'd expect!!!
  - Either set GLOBAL variables
    - Except watch out for subshells (including '|')!!!
  - OR output results and call function in a \$()

## function \_choose\_file

```
#++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
"Return" the file name chosen (not for production use)
Called like: file=$(_choose_file <dir>)
function _choose_file {
 local dir="$1"
 PS3='Choose a file: '
 select file in $dir/*; do
 echo "$file" && break
 done
} # end of function _choose_file
```

# function log

```
function Log {
 printf '%(%F %T %z)T: %s\n' '-1' "$*"
}
```

- `printf %(datefmt)T` added in bash 4.2, but default was Epoch (1969-12-31 19:00:00 EDT)
  - So this won't work in the stone-age default `bash` on a Mac!
- Default changed to “now” in bash 4.3
- Use '-1' for consistent behavior
  - Can also use '-2' for time shell was started or 'Epoch integer' to display some other time

# Snippets

```
Only if interactive bash with a terminal!
[-t 1 -a -n "$BASH_VERSION"] && {
 PS1='\n[\u@\h:T\l:L$SHLVL:C\!:J\j:\D{%Y-%m-%d_%H:%M:%S_%Z}]\n\${PWD}\$ '
 alias df='df --print-type --exclude-type=tmpfs --exclude-type=devtmpfs'
 alias diff='diff -u' # Make unified diffs the default
 alias ll='ls --color=auto -F -h -l'
 alias lrt='ls --color=auto -F -h -lrt'
 alias md='mkdir'
 alias ping='ping -c4' # Only 4 pings by default
 alias rd='rmdir'
 alias vi='vim'
 alias vzip='unzip -lvM'
 alias lesss='less -S' # Don't wrap lines
 export LESS='--LONG-PROMPT --LINE-NUMBERS --ignore-case --QUIET --no-init'
 bind '"\e[A": history-search-backward'
 bind '"\e[B": history-search-forward'
 bind '"\C-i": menu-complete'
 bind 'set completion-ignore-case on'
 export HISTCONTROL='erasedups:ignoredups:ignorespace'
 export HISTIGNORE='&:[]*' # bash >= 3, omit dups & lines starting with space
 export MANWIDTH=80 # man page width, use < 80 if COLUMNS=80 & less -N
 export LC_COLLATE='C' # Set traditional C sort order (e.g. UC first)
 export VISUAL='vim'
 function mcd {
 mkdir -p "$1"
 cd "$1"
 }
}
```

# Revision Control

- Out of scope here, except that you want some.
- Lots of resources out there.
  - [http://www.jpdomain.org/public/Revision\\_Control\\_for\\_the\\_Rest\\_of\\_Us.pdf](http://www.jpdomain.org/public/Revision_Control_for_the_Rest_of_Us.pdf)
  - [http://www.jpdomain.org/public/PANTUG\\_2007-06-13\\_appd=Revision\\_Control=JP.pdf](http://www.jpdomain.org/public/PANTUG_2007-06-13_appd=Revision_Control=JP.pdf)
- Trivial case:
  - aptitude install bzip2
  - cd /path/to/scripts
  - bzip2 init
  - bzip2 add \*
  - bzip2 ci

# What did we miss?

- Well, almost everything, entire books have been written, 1 hour isn't going to cover it.
- `for (( expr1 ; expr2 ; expr3 )) ; do list; done`
- `[ ]`, `[[ ]]`, `{ }`, `( )`, `(( ))`
- `while list; do list; done`
- `until list; do list; done`
- Pattern Matching:
  - `${variable#pattern}`            `${variable##pattern}`
  - `${variable%pattern}`            `${variable%%pattern}`
  - `${variable/pattern/string}`   `${variable//pattern/string}`
  - So, ``basename $0`` is `${0##*/}`

# What else did we miss?

- String Operations:
  - `${variable:-word}` # **Return** a default value
  - `${variable:=word}` # **Set** a default value
  - `${variable:?word}` # Catch undefined vars (error)
  - `${variable:+word}` # Test existence (or return null)
  - `${variable:offset:length}` # Substrings
  - `${variable^^}` # Upper case
  - `${variable,,}` # Lower case
- Aliases (& \unalias)
- Lots, lots, lots more...



# What about Mac & Windows?

- bash comes on a Mac but it's really old! Default is now Zsh, which is more-or-less a super-set of bash
  - Awesome [http://examples.oreilly.com/0636920032731/Terminal\\_Crash\\_Course.pdf](http://examples.oreilly.com/0636920032731/Terminal_Crash_Course.pdf)
- bash on Windows:
  - Git bash
  - Win10: WSL1, WSL2
  - Older: for Win10: <http://blog.dustinkirkland.com/2016/03/ubuntu-on-windows.html>
- Windows 'cmd.exe' is actually much more powerful than most people realize, but it still pales in comparison to any decent Unix/Linux shell.
  - <http://www.jpsdomain.org/windows/winshell.html>
- Use Cygwin: <http://www.cygwin.com/>
- Use the UnxUtils: <http://unxutils.sourceforge.net/>
- Use the GNU Win32 ports: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/gnuwin32/>
- Use Perl, Python or some other tool
  - <http://www.activestate.com/solutions/perl/>, etc.

# What next?

- Books
  - *Learning the bash Shell*
  - *bash Cookbook*
  - *Classic Shell Scripting*
  - *UNIX Power Tools*
- Web
  - <http://www.bashcookbook.com/bashinfo/>
  - Google
  - Everywhere
- **Revision Control = USE IT!**
  - If you know a tool already, use that
  - If \$WORK uses or recommends a tool, use that
  - git, Bazaar (BZR), Mercurial (Hg), many others
  - Avoid CVS if possible, it's too old and crufty
  - Avoid SVN if possible, it's just odd and obsolete
  - [http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/Revision\\_Control\\_for\\_the\\_Rest\\_of\\_Us.pdf](http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/Revision_Control_for_the_Rest_of_Us.pdf)

# URLs, Wrap-up and Q&A

## ▪ URLs:

- TONS of resources: <http://www.bashcookbook.com/bashinfo/>
- Changes by bash version: <http://wiki.bash-hackers.org/scripting/bashchanges>
- These slides: [http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/bash\\_101.pdf](http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/bash_101.pdf)  
or [http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/bash\\_101.odp](http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/bash_101.odp)
- Bash vs. Dash: [http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/2008-JP\\_bash\\_vs\\_dash.pdf](http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/2008-JP_bash_vs_dash.pdf) and  
*aptitude install devscripts* then use *checkbashisms*
- The sample script: <http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/cdburn>
- STDIN, STDOUT, STDERR: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard\\_streams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_streams)
- Revision Control: [http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/Revision\\_Control\\_for\\_the\\_Rest\\_of\\_Us.pdf](http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/Revision_Control_for_the_Rest_of_Us.pdf)  
and (older) [http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/PANTUG\\_2007-06-13\\_appd=Revision\\_Control=JP.pdf](http://www.jpsdomain.org/public/PANTUG_2007-06-13_appd=Revision_Control=JP.pdf)
- Windows Shell Scripting (cmd.exe): <http://www.jpsdomain.org/windows/winshell.html>
- BASH Prompt HOWTO: <http://www.tldp.org/HOWTO/Bash-Prompt-HOWTO/index.html>
- Cygwin: <http://www.cygwin.com/>
- UnxUtils: <http://unxutils.sourceforge.net/>
- GNU Win32 ports: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/gnuwin32/>
- Win32 Perl <http://www.activestate.com/solutions/perl/>
- Mac; this is awesome [http://examples.oreilly.com/0636920032731/Terminal\\_Crash\\_Course.pdf](http://examples.oreilly.com/0636920032731/Terminal_Crash_Course.pdf)

## ▪ Questions?

- I'm on the PLUG list... [jp@jpsdomain.org](mailto:jp@jpsdomain.org)

- Some of these slides were adapted from 2007 Ubuntu Live presentation by Carl Albing & JP Vossen: “bash from beginner to power user”