



Shell Programming



Shell Scripts (1)

- ◆ Basically, a shell script is a text file with Unix commands in it.
- ◆ Shell scripts usually begin with a `#!` and a shell name
 - For example: `#!/bin/sh`
 - If they do not, the user's current shell will be used
- ◆ Any Unix command can go in a shell script
 - Commands are executed in order or in the flow determined by control statements.
- ◆ Different shells have different control structures
 - The `#!` line is very important
 - We will write shell scripts with the Bourne shell (`sh`)

Shell Scripts (2)

◆ Why write shell scripts?

- To avoid repetition:

- ❖ If you do a sequence of steps with standard Unix commands over and over, why not do it all with just one command?

- To automate difficult tasks:

- ❖ Many commands have subtle and difficult options that you don't want to figure out or remember every time.

A Simple Example (1)

- ◆ `tr abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz \`
`thequickbrownfxjimpsvalzydg < file1 > file2`
 - “encrypts” file1 into file2
- ◆ Record this command into shell script files:
 - myencrypt
`#!/bin/sh`
`tr abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz \`
`thequickbrownfxjimpsvalzydg`
 - mydecrypt
`#!/bin/sh`
`tr thequickbrownfxjimpsvalzydg \`
`abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz`

A Simple Example (2)

- ◆ **chmod** the files to be executable; otherwise, you couldn't run the scripts

```
obelix[3] > chmod u+x myencrypt mydecrypt
```

- ◆ Run them as normal commands:

```
obelix[4] > ./myencrypt < file1 > file2
```

```
obelix[5] > ./mydecrypt < file2 > file3
```

```
obelix[6] > diff file1 file3
```



**Remember: This is needed
when "." is not in the path**

Bourne Shell Variables

- ◆ Remember: Bourne shell variables are different from variables in csh and tcsh!

– Examples in sh:


```
PATH=$PATH:$HOME/bin
```

```
HA=$1
```

```
PHRASE="House on the hill"
```

```
export PHRASE
```

Note: no space
around =



Make PHRASE an
environment variable



Assigning Command Output to a Variable

- ◆ Using backquotes, we can assign the output of a command to a variable:

```
#!/bin/sh  
files=`ls`  
echo $files
```

- ◆ Very useful in numerical computation:

```
#!/bin/sh  
value=`expr 12345 + 54321`  
echo $value
```

Using expr for Calculations

◆ Variables as arguments:

```
% count=5
```

```
% count=`expr $count + 1`
```

```
% echo $count
```

```
6
```

– Variables are replaced with their values by the shell!

◆ expr supports the following operators:

– arithmetic operators: +, -, *, /, %

– comparison operators: <, <=, ==, !=, >=, >

– boolean/logical operators: &, |

– parentheses: (,)

– precedence is the same as C, Java

Control Statements

- ◆ Without control statements, execution within a shell scripts flows from one statement to the next in succession.
- ◆ Control statements control the flow of execution in a programming language
- ◆ The three most common types of control statements:
 - conditionals: if/then/else, case, ...
 - loop statements: while, for, until, do, ...
 - branch statements: subroutine calls (good), goto (bad)

for Loops

- ◆ for loops allow the repetition of a command for a specific set of values

- ◆ Syntax:

```
for var in value1 value2 ...
```

```
do
```

```
    command_set
```

```
done
```

- command_set is executed with each value of var (value1, value2, ...) in sequence

for Loop Example (1)

```
#!/bin/sh
# timestable – print out a multiplication table
for i in 1 2 3
do
  for j in 1 2 3
  do
    value=`expr $i \* $j`
    echo -n "$value "
  done
  echo
done
```

for Loop Example (2)

```
#!/bin/sh
# file-poke – tell us stuff about files
files=`ls`
for i in $files
do
    echo -n "$i "
    grep $i $i
done
```

- Find filenames in files in current directory

for Loop Example (3)

```
#!/bin/sh
# file-poke – tell us stuff about files
for i in *; do
    echo -n "$i "
    grep $i $i
done
```

- Same as previous slide, only a little more condensed.

Conditionals

- ◆ Conditionals are used to “test” something.
 - In Java or C, they test whether a Boolean variable is true or false.
 - In a Bourne shell script, the only thing you can test is whether or not a command is “successful”
- ◆ Every well behaved command returns back a **return code**.
 - 0 if it was successful
 - Non-zero if it was unsuccessful (actually 1..255)
 - We will see later that this is different from true/false conditions in C.

The if Statement

◆ Simple form:

```
if decision_command_1
then
    command_set_1
fi
```


grep returns 0 if it finds something
returns non-zero otherwise



◆ Example:

```
if grep unix myfile >/dev/null
then
    echo "It's there"
fi
```

redirect to /dev/null so that
"intermediate" results do not get
printed



if and else

```
if grep "UNIX" myfile >/dev/null
then
    echo UNIX occurs in myfile
else
    echo No!
    echo UNIX does not occur in myfile
fi
```

if and elif

```
if grep "UNIX" myfile >/dev/null
then
    echo "UNIX occurs in file"
elif grep "DOS" myfile >/dev/null
then
    echo "Unix does not occur, but DOS does"
else
    echo "Nobody is there"
fi
```

Use of Semicolons

- ◆ Instead of being on separate lines, statements can be separated by a semicolon (;)
 - For example:
 - if grep "UNIX" myfile; then echo "Got it"; fi
 - This actually works anywhere in the shell.
 - `% cwd=`pwd`; cd $HOME; ls; cd $cwd`

Use of Colon

- ◆ Sometimes it is useful to have a command which does “nothing”.
- ◆ The : (colon) command in Unix does nothing

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
if grep unix myfile
```

```
then
```

```
:
```

```
else
```

```
    echo "Sorry, unix was not found"
```

```
fi
```

The test Command – File Tests

- ▶ `test -f file` does `file` exist and is not a directory?
- ▶ `test -d file` does `file` exist and is a directory?
- ▶ `test -x file` does `file` exist and is executable?
- ▶ `test -s file` does `file` exist and is longer than 0 bytes?

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
count=0
```

```
for i in *; do
```

```
    if test -x $i; then
```

```
        count=`expr $count + 1`
```

```
    fi
```

```
done
```

```
echo Total of $count files executable.
```

The test Command – String Tests

- ◆ `test -z string` is `string` of length 0?
- ◆ `test string1 = string2` does `string1` equal `string2`?
- ◆ `test string1 != string2` not equal?
- ◆ Example:

```
if test -z $REMOTEHOST
```

```
then
```

```
:
```

```
else
```

```
    DISPLAY="$REMOTEHOST:0"
```

```
    export DISPLAY
```

```
fi
```

The test Command – Integer Tests

- ◆ Integers can also be compared:
 - Use -eq, -ne, -lt, -le, -gt, -ge

- ◆ For example:

```
#!/bin/sh
smallest=10000
for i in 5 8 19 8 7 3; do
    if test $i -lt $smallest; then
        smallest=$i
    fi
done
echo $smallest
```

Use of []

- ◆ The `test` program has an alias as []
 - Each bracket must be surrounded by spaces!
 - This is supposed to be a bit easier to read.
- ◆ For example:

```
#!/bin/sh
smallest=10000
for i in 5 8 19 8 7 3; do
    if [ $i -lt $smallest ] ; then
        smallest=$i
    fi
done
echo $smallest
```

The while Loop

- ◆ While loops repeat statements as long as the next Unix command is successful.
- ◆ For example:

```
#!/bin/sh
i=1
sum=0
while [ $i -le 100 ]; do
    sum=`expr $sum + $i`
    i=`expr $i + 1`
done
echo The sum is $sum.
```

The until Loop

- ◆ Until loops repeat statements until the next Unix command is successful.
- ◆ For example:

```
#!/bin/sh
x=1
until [ $x -gt 3 ]; do
    echo x = $x
    x=`expr $x + 1`
done
```

Command Line Arguments (1)

- ◆ Shell scripts would not be very useful if we could not pass arguments to them on the command line
- ◆ Shell script arguments are “numbered” from left to right
 - **\$1** - first argument after command
 - **\$2** - second argument after command
 - ... up to \$9
 - They are called “positional parameters”.

Command Line Arguments (2)

◆ Example: get a particular line of a file

– Write a command with the format:

```
getlineno linenumber filename
```

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
head -$1 $2 | tail -1
```

◆ Other variables related to arguments:

❖ **\$0** name of the command running

❖ **\$*** All the arguments (even if there are more than 9)

❖ **\$#** the number of arguments

Command Line Arguments (3)

- ◆ Example: print the oldest files in a directory

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
# oldest -- examine the oldest parts of a directory
```

```
HOWMANY=$1
```

```
shift
```

```
ls -lt $* | tail +2 | tail $HOWMANY
```

- ◆ The `shift` command shifts all the arguments to the left
 - $\$1 = \2 , $\$2 = \3 , $\$3 = \4 , ...
 - $\$1$ is lost (but we have saved it in $\$HOWMANY$)
 - The value of $\$#$ is changed ($\$# - 1$)
 - **useful when there are more than 9 arguments**
- ◆ The “`tail +2`” command removes the first line.

More on Bourne Shell Variables (1)

- ◆ There are three basic types of variables in a shell script:
 - Positional variables ...
 - ❖ \$1, \$2, \$3, ..., \$9
 - Keyword variables ...
 - ❖ Like \$PATH, \$HOWMANY, and anything else we may define.
 - Special variables ...

More on Bourne Shell Variables (2)

◆ Special variables:

- `$*`, `$#` -- all the arguments, the number of the arguments
- `$$` -- the process id of the current shell
- `$?` -- return value of last foreground process to finish
 - more on this one later
- There are others you can find out about with `man sh`

Reading Variables From Standard Input (1)

- ◆ The `read` command reads one line of input from the terminal and assigns it to variables give as arguments
- ◆ Syntax: `read var1 var2 var3 ...`
 - ❖ Action: reads a line of input from standard input
 - ❖ Assign first word to `var1`, second word to `var2`, ...
 - ❖ The last variable gets any excess words on the line.

Reading Variables from Standard Input (2)

◆ Example:

```
% read X Y Z
```

```
Here are some words as input
```

```
% echo $X
```

```
Here
```

```
% echo $Y
```

```
are
```

```
% echo $Z
```

```
some words as input
```

The case Statement

- ◆ The case statement supports multiway branching based on the value of a single string.
- ◆ General form:

```
case string in
  pattern1)
    command_set_11
    ;;
  pattern2)
    command_set_2
    ;;
  ...
esac
```

case Example

```
#!/bin/sh
echo -n 'Choose command [1-4] > '
read reply
echo
case $reply in
"1")
  date
  ;;
"2"|"3")
  pwd
  ;;
"4")
  ls
  ;;
*)
  echo Illegal choice!
  ;;
esac
```

Use the pipe symbol “|” as a logical or between several choices.

Provide a default case when no other cases are matched.

Redirection in Bourne Shell Scripts (1)

- ◆ Standard input is redirected the same (<).
- ◆ Standard output can be redirected the same (>).
 - Can also be directed using the notation `1>`
 - For example: `cat x 1> ls.txt` (only stdout)
- ◆ Standard error is redirected using the notation `2>`
 - For example: `cat x y 1> stdout.txt 2> stderr.txt`
- ◆ Standard output and standard error can be redirected to the same file using the notation `2>&1`
 - For example: `cat x y > xy.txt 2>&1`
- ◆ Standard output and standard error can be piped to the same command using similar notation
 - For example: `cat x y 2>&1 | grep text`

Redirection in Bourne Shell Scripts (2)

- ◆ Shell scripts can also supply standard input to commands from text embedded in the script itself.
- ◆ General form: `command << word`
 - Standard input for `command` follows this line up to, but not including, the line beginning with `word`.
- ◆ Example:

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
grep 'hello' << EOF
```

```
This is some sample text.
```

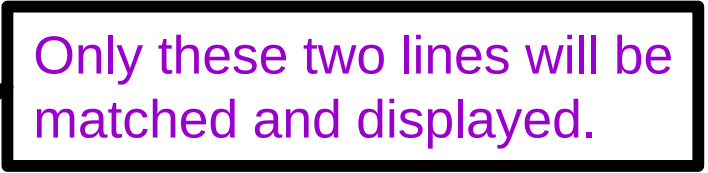
```
Here is a line with hello in it.
```

```
Here is another line with hello.
```

```
No more lines with that word.
```

```
EOF
```

Only these two lines will be matched and displayed.



A Shell Script Example (1)

- ◆ Suppose we have a file called `marks.txt` containing the following student grades:

091286899 90 H. White

197920499 80 J. Brown

899268899 75 A. Green

.....

- ◆ We want to calculate some statistics on the grades in this file.

A Shell Script Example (2)

```
#!/bin/sh
sum=0; countfail=0; count=0;
while read studentnum grade name; do
    sum=`expr $sum + $grade`
    count=`expr $count + 1`
    if [ $grade -lt 50 ]; then
        countfail=`expr $countfail + 1`
    fi
done
echo The average is `expr $sum / $count`.
echo $countfail students failed.
```

A Shell Script Example (3)

- ◆ Suppose the previous shell script was saved in a file called `statistics`.
- ◆ How could we execute it?
- ◆ As usual, in several ways ...
 - `% cat marks.txt | statistics`
 - `% statistics < marks.txt`
- ◆ We could also just execute `statistics` and provide marks through standard input.