

The Linux Environment

Spoken Tutorial Project
National Mission on Education through ICT
<http://spoken-tutorial.org>

Script
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Pre-requisites :

- ▶ **A working Linux System to try out the examples illustrated.**



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- ▶ If not, please refer to spoken tutorials on <http://spoken-tutorial.org>



About the Linux commands

- ▶ **Linux is case sensitive.**



About the Linux commands

- ▶ Linux is case sensitive.
- ▶ All the commands used are in lowercase, unless mentioned otherwise.



Shell Variables

- ▶ **Linux Environment** determines how the OS behaves, responds, interprets, and so on.



Shell Variables

- ▶ **Linux Environment** determines how the OS behaves, responds, interprets, and so on.
- ▶ **Linux can be highly customized by changing the settings of the shell.**



Shell Variables

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Shell Variables

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- ▶ There are two main kinds of shell variables :
 - a Environment Variables
 - b Local Variables



Environment Variables



Environment Variables

- **Available in user's total environment.**



Environment Variables

- ▶ Available in user's total environment.
- ▶ Also available in the sub-shells spawned by the shell (like the ones used for running shell scripts).



Local Variables



Local Variables

- **Limited availability.**



Local Variables

- ▶ **Limited availability.**
- ▶ **Not available in the sub-shells spawned by the shell.**



Environment Variables

- ▶ In this tutorial, we will mainly talk about environment variables.



Environment Variables

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- ▶ Let us first see how the value of these shell variables can be seen.



Shell Variables

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Shell Variables

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Shell Variables

- ▶ We would be using the **Bash** shell.
- ▶ Different shells are customized in slightly different ways.
- ▶ To see what a variable actually stores, we have to prefix a **dollar** sign to the name of that variable.
- ▶ Use the **echo** command along with it.



Shell variable



Shell variable

- ▶ **SHELL** variable stores the name of the current shell.



HOME variable



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HOME variable

- ▶ When we login into Linux, it normally places us in a directory named after our user name.
- ▶ This directory is called the Home directory.
- ▶ This is exactly what is available in HOME variable.



PATH Variable



PATH Variable

PATH variable

- ▶ contains the absolute paths of the directories



PATH Variable

PATH variable

- ▶ contains the absolute paths of the directories
- ▶ that the **Shell** is supposed to search



PATH Variable

PATH variable

- ▶ contains the absolute paths of the directories
- ▶ that the Shell is supposed to search
- ▶ for locating any executable command



LOGNAME Variable



LOGNAME Variable

- ▶ **LOGNAME** variable stores the username of the currently active user.



Summary

In this tutorial we have learnt about:

- ▶ **Environment Variables**
- ▶ **History**
- ▶ **Aliasing**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- ▶ Spoken Tutorials are part of 'Talk to a Teacher' project.
- ▶ Supported by the National Mission on Education through ICT, MHRD, Government of India.
- ▶ More information:
<http://spoken-tutorial.org/NMEICT-Intro>

