#### Introduction to the Unix Shell Mike Nolta, SciNet

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#### What is a shell?

A shell is a meta-program.

It's a program to run other programs.

All general purpose computers have a shell of some sort.

#### Graphical "shell"



For example, the main screen of a smartphone can be considered a kind of shell. It lists the available programs, which you tap to start.

(However, most people would call this a launcher, not a shell.)

#### Text shells

The first shells were written in the early 1970s, when you talked to computers like this:



#### So why still use text shells?

We don't use teletypes anymore, so why isn't everything graphical?

A graphical user interface is pretty, but limited. The only thing you can do is start a program, and that's pretty much it.

As we'll see, a text interface allows you to combine simple programs together in powerful ways.

A shell is not just a *program* to launch programs, but a *language* to launch programs. We use text shells for the same reason we still write code in text -- it's more expressive.

#### Getting setup

- Linux:
  - Look for a Terminal application (gnome-terminal, konsole, xterm, ...)
- OS X:
  - Open Applications/Utilities/Terminal
- Windows:
  - Start MobaXterm;
  - Go to *Settings > Configuration* and set "persistent HOME directory" to a permanent location.

#### The shell prompt

You should now see the shell prompt, awaiting input:

• Linux:

[username@hostname ~]\$

• OS X:

hostname:~ username\$

• Windows (MobaXterm):

[username.hostname]

#### In these slides i'll use

\$

as the shell prompt.

## Running a program

Instead of tapping an icon, in a text shell you type the name of the program you want to run and hit *Enter*. Let's run the date program:

\$ date Thu 9 Jul 2015 11:55:48 EDT

date is the name of the program we want to run, which prints the current time.

#### Program arguments

The first word is the command, and any subsequent words are passed to the command as arguments, where the words are separated by whitespace.

The echo program prints the arguments you give it:

```
$ echo a b c
a b c
```

Here we've passed three arguments: "a", "b", and "c".

The seq program prints a sequence of integers:

## Getting help

#### Use the man command (short for manual) to get help

```
$ man echo
ECHO(1) BSD General Commands Manual ECHO(1)
NAME
echo -- write arguments to the standard output
SYNOPSIS
echo [-n] [string ...]
DESCRIPTION
The echo utility writes any specified operands, separated by single blank (`
characters and followed by a newline (`\n') character, to the standard output
...
```

#### Let's write our own echo

```
// print_args.c : print command line arguments
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    for (int i = 0; i < argc; i++)
        printf("arg $d is %s\n", i, argv[i]);
    return 0;
}</pre>
```

```
$ gcc -o print_args print_args.c
$ ./print_args a b c
arg 0 is ./print_args
arg 1 is a
arg 2 is b
arg 3 is c
```

## String literals

String literals are delimited by single quotes:

```
$ echo 'the cake cost $10 dollars'
the cake cost $10 dollars
```

If a single-quoted string is preceded by a \$, standard C character escape sequences are expanded:

```
$ echo 'a\nb\nc'
a\nb\nc
$ echo $'a\nb\nc'
a
b
c
```

\n is a newline, \t is a tab, etc.

#### Field Splitting

Quotes prevent argument splitting, allowing you to pass spaces in a single argument:

\$ ./print\_args a b
arg 0 is ./print\_args
arg 1 is a
arg 2 is b

\$ ./print\_args 'a b'
arg 0 is ./print\_args
arg 1 is a b

#### Variables

If you want to pass the same argument to multiple commands, you can define a variable:

```
$ var='a b'
```

Valid variable names start with a letter, and consist only of letters, numbers, and underscores.

Note that there can be no spaces around the equal sign -- var = x is interpreted as "run the 'var' command with arguments '=' and 'x'".

To get a variable's value, prefix with a dollar sign:

```
$ echo $var
a b
```

# String literals (2)

There's another form of string literal, delimited by double-quotes. It's like a single-quoted string, but interpolates variables:

```
$ var='a b'
$ echo 'the value of var is $var'
the value of var is $var
$ echo "the value of var is $var"
the value of var is a b
```

When ambiguous, surround the variable name with braces:

\$ echo "the value of var is \$vars"
the value of var is
\$ echo "the value of var is \${var}s"
the value of var is a bs

# Field Splitting (2)

Newlines and tabs can also delimit arguments, unless protected by quotes.

\$	<mark>X</mark> =\$'ä	a/nb	\nc'				
\$ a	echo b c	\$X					
\$ a b c	echo	"\$X	( II (				

#### Where are these programs?

The which command shows you the location a program:

\$ which echo
/bin/echo
\$ which seq
/usr/bin/seq

But what does /bin/echo mean?

### The Filesystem

#### The Unix Filesystem

Like Windows and OS X, the Unix filesystem is hierarchical, with files stored in nested directories (folders). Directories can hold both files and other directories (called subdirectories).

A *path* is a string representing a route through the filesystem, tracing a path through the directories, with the names separated by **/**.

There are two kinds of paths: absolute and relative.

- absolute paths start with a /, and refer to a fixed location;
- relative paths do not start with a /, and are relative to the current working directory.

Unlike Windows, the Unix filesystem is *unified*, every file and directory descends from /, the root. There are no drive letters, e.g., C:\Folder\File.txt.

#### Filesystem layout

- / is the root of the filesystem
- /usr holds system software:
  - /usr/bin holds system programs (aka binaries)
  - /usr/lib holds system libraries
- /etc holds system configuration files.
- /home holds user home directories
- /tmp holds temporary files

# Navigating the Filesystem: pwd & cd

Print current (working) directory:

\$ pwd
/Users/nolta

This is my home directory (on OS X).

Change current directory with cd:

\$ cd /usr \$ pwd /usr \$ cd bin \$ pwd /usr/bin

Note the cd bin command is interpreted relative to our current location (i.e., "change to the 'bin' subdirectory").

#### Navigating the Filesystem: ls

List the files in the current directory:

\$ ls			
Desktop	Library	Pictures	chime
Documents	Movies	Public	julia
Downloads	Music	asciinema	talks

List the files in a specific directory:

\$ ls / bin dev home lib64 media mnt nixon proc run scratch sys usr boot etc lib lost+found misc net opt root sbin srv tmp **var** 

#### Creating & Removing Directories

Make a new directory:

\$ mkdir tmp

Remove directory:

\$ rmdir tmp

rmdir will fail if the directory contains any files or directories.

#### **Removing files**

\$ rm filename

Adding the -r option lets you recursively remove a directory and all its subdirectories & files.

\$ rm -r dir

#### Renaming Files & Directories

\$ mv oldname newname

## Copy a File

\$ cp original copy

#### Special directories: ., . ., ~

. refers to the current directory, so ls and ls . are equivalent.

.. refers to the parent directory.

```
$ cd /usr/local/bin
$ cd ../../lib
$ pwd
/usr/lib
```

refers to your home directory.

\$ cd ~/data
\$ pwd
/Users/nolta/data

### Recap

- cp copy file
- ср г сору directory
- mkdir make new directory
- mv move file or directory
- rm remove file
- rm -r remove directory
- rmdir remove empty directory

#### The Environment

#### **Environment Variables**

Ok, where were we? Right,

\$ which seq
/usr/bin/seq

So the seq program is located in the /usr/bin directory. When the shell sees seq, it runs /usr/bin/seq.

But how did the shell know to run /usr/bin/seq?

There's a special environment variable called PATH that lists the directories the shell searches for programs.

\$ echo \$PATH
/opt/local/bin:/opt/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/usr/sbin:/opt/X

#### Other interesting environment variables

• HOME: user home directory

\$ echo \$HOME
/Users/nolta

- PWD: current working directory (same as pwd command)
- PS1: prompt string

```
$ PS1=" yo: "
yo:
```

#### Wildcards (aka Globbing)

# File globbing

Say you have a directory with thousands of files, but only a few files have the extension .html. You can list only those files using the \* pattern:

\$ ls \*.html
index.html
intro\_to\_unix\_shell.html

Before the command is run, the shell expands \*.html into a list of filenames ending in .html, and then passes that list as arguments to ls.

As usual, quoting protects arguments from globbing

\$ ls "\*.html"
ls: \*.html: No such file or directory

## Globbing patterns

- \* matches any sequence of zero-or-more characters
- ? matches any single character
- [...] matches any single character in ...
- [!...] matches any single character not in ...
- any other character just matches itself

#### Globbing examples

- \*.pdf matches any string ending in .pdf
- ??? matches any 3-character string
- [a-z]\* matches any string starting with a lowercase letter
- [!a-z]\* matches any string not starting with a lowercase letter
- [A-Za-z0-9\_] matches any letter (upper or lower), digit, or underscore

#### Standard I/O & Redirection
# Redirect Output to a File

Often you want to save the output of a command to a file, not dump it to the screen:

\$ seq 4 2 4 3 2

This is accomplished via the > operator:

```
$ ls
$ seq 4 2 > output
$ ls
output
$ cat output
4
3
2
```

Here the output of the seq 3 command has been redirected to the new file output. The cat program dumps files to the screen.

## Append Output to a File

> clobbers the file:

```
$ echo a > output
$ echo b > output
$ cat output
b
```

Use >> to append to the file, if it exists:

```
$ echo a > output
$ echo b >> output
$ cat output
a
b
```

# Redirect Input from a File

Similarly, you can redirect the input of a command to come from a file, not the terminal, with <:

```
$ seq 4 2 > output
$ sort < output
2
3
4</pre>
```

The sort command sorts the lines of its input.

## Pipelines

This pattern is so common

\$ cmd1 > tmpfile
\$ cmd2 < tmpfile</pre>

that there's a special pipeline syntax to connect the output of one command to the input of another command:

```
$ seq 4 2
4
3
2
$ seq 4 2 | sort
2
3
4
```

### **Behind the Scenes**

Don't worry if you don't understand this material -- it's optional!

### Files

A **file** is a source and/or sink of bytes, which supports the following API:

- fd = open(filename, mode)
- read(fd, buf, n), read at most *n* bytes from *fd* into *buf*;
- write(fd, buf, n), write *n* bytes from *buf* to *fd*;
- close(fd)

This is a powerful abstraction. Files are typically thought of, e.g., a PDF on a disk drive, but they can be anything you can read and/or write to. For example, a network connection can be thought of as a file.

### Standard I/O

Each process starts life with 3 open files:

- standard input (aka stdin)
- standard output (aka stdout)
- standard error (aka stderr)

Their file ids are 0, 1, 2 respectively.

Not surprisingly, the process reads from stdin, writes to stdout, and writes errors to stderr.

### Redirection

For a shell, stdin/stdout/stderr are typically the same file, a terminal:

\$ tty /dev/ttys009

When the shell runs a program, by default the program reads & writes to the same stdin, stdout, and stderr as the shell.

However, you can redirect I/O, i.e., read/write from different files.

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### Under the hood

> filename is the same as 1> filename, i.e., "redirect the output of file descriptor 1 to filename".

n> filename gets translated into something like

```
close(n);
open(filename, 0_WRONLY|0_CREATE);
```

Because open is called immediately after close, it's guaranteed to return the same file descriptor (in this case, n).

### Stupid redirection tricks

// write\_to\_3.c : write a short message to file descriptor 3

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <unistd.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    const char *s = "this is file descriptor 3";
    if (write(3, s, strlen(s)) == -1)
        fprintf(stderr, "error: couldn't write to file descriptor 3\n");
    return 0;
}
```

```
$ ./write_to_3
error: couldn't write to file descriptor 3
```

\$ ./write\_to\_3 3>output
\$ cat output
this is file descriptor 3

### Here Documents: <<

- \$ sort <<EOF</pre>
- > pear
- > apple
- > tophat
- > EOF
- apple pear
- . tophat

EOF is an arbitrary string. It marks the beginning and end of the input.

### Here Documents: <<<

<<< lets you pass cmd-line strings to stdin.

Example -- let:

\$ X=\$'pear\napple\ntophat'

So instead of

\$ echo "\$X" | sort
apple
pear
tophat

you can write

\$ sort <<<"\$X"
apple
pear
tophat</pre>

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```
$ ls *.nope
ls: *.nope: No such file or directory
$ ls *.nope >output
ls: *.nope: No such file or directory
```

The error message is still printed to the terminal because it's written to stderr, not stdout.

To redirect stderr, use 2>:

\$ ls \*.nope >output 2>err

What if you want to direct both stdout & stderr to the same file?

```
$ ls *.nope >output 2>&1
$ cat output
ls: *.nope: No such file or directory
```

n>filename <mark>turns into</mark>

close(n);
open(filename, WRITE);

n>&m turns into

close(n); dup(m);

dup duplicates the file descriptor, and like open it reuses the last closed file descriptor (i.e., dup(m) == n).

Redirections are processed in order from left to right.

>filename 2>&1

close(1); open(filename, WRITE); close(2); dup(1); 0 /dev/tty --> /dev/tty --> /dev/tty 1 /dev/tty --> filename --> filename 2 /dev/tty --> /dev/tty --> filename

Redirections are processed in order from left to right.

2>&1 >filename

close(2); dup(1); close(1); open(filename, WRITE);

0	/dev/tty	>	/dev/tty	>	/dev/tty
1	/dev/tty	>	/dev/tty	>	filename
2	/dev/tty	>	/dev/tty	>	/dev/tty

# Chaining Commands

### **Command Chains**

Commands can be chained together in 4 ways:

- command1 ; command2 ; ... run commands in sequence.
- command1 & command2 & ... run commands in parallel.
- command1 && command2 ... run command only if previous command succeeded.
- command1 || command2 ... run command only if previous command failed.

A command succeeds when it returns 0, any other value indicates failure.

int main(void) { return 0; } // success
int main(void) { return 1; } // failure

The exit status of the last command is stored in the special environment variable \$?.

## Pipelines are left-associative

What's the output of

\$ false && echo foo || echo bar

and

\$ true || echo foo && echo bar

?

### Pipelines are left-associative

#### What's the output of

\$ false && echo foo || echo bar

and

\$ true || echo foo && echo bar

?

Both output bar.

### Job Control

## Job Control

Job control refers to managing background processes.

To list all the current background processes, use jobs:

```
$ sleep 50 & sleep 60 & sleep 70 &
[1] 18383
[2] 18384
[3] 18385
$ jobs
[1] Running sleep 50 &
[2]- Running sleep 60 &
[3]+ Running sleep 70 &
```

Jobs can be referred to either by their PID (e.g., 18383) or job number (e.g., %1).

# Suspending Jobs

If you started a job, but forgot to add &, use Control-Z to suspend it:

```
$ ping freebsd.org
PING freebsd.org (8.8.178.110) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from wfe0.ysv.freebsd.org (8.8.178.110): icmp_seq=1 ttl=49 time=69.1 ms
64 bytes from wfe0.ysv.freebsd.org (8.8.178.110): icmp_seq=2 ttl=49 time=68.9 ms
64 bytes from wfe0.ysv.freebsd.org (8.8.178.110): icmp_seq=3 ttl=49 time=68.9 ms
^Z
[1]+ Stopped ping freebsd.org
```

The job is now stopped, and not executing. Use fg to bring it back to the foreground.

```
$ jobs
[1]+ Stopped ping freebsd.org
$ fg
ping freebsd.org
64 bytes from wfe0.ysv.freebsd.org (8.8.178.110): icmp_seq=4 ttl=49 time=68.8 ms
64 bytes from wfe0.ysv.freebsd.org (8.8.178.110): icmp_seq=5 ttl=49 time=68.9 ms
64 bytes from wfe0.ysv.freebsd.org (8.8.178.110): icmp_seq=6 ttl=49 time=68.6 ms
...
```

# Useful Programs

# head, tail: first or last lines of file

Take first 3 lines:

```
$ seq 7 | head -n 3
1
2
3
```

Take last 3 lines:

```
$ seq 7 | tail -n 3
5
6
7
```

# head,tail, continued

Drop first 2 lines:

```
$ seq 7 | tail -n+3
3
4
5
6
7
```

Drop last 2 lines (*doesn't work on OS X*):

\$ seq 7 | head -n-2 1 2 3 4 5

### sort: sort lines

Normal (lexicographic) sort:

```
$ seq 9 11 | sort
10
11
9
```

Numerical sort (-n):

```
$ seq 9 11 | sort -n
9
10
11
```

Reverse sort (-r):

```
$ seq 9 11 | sort -n -r
11
10
9
```

# uniq: unique lines

uniq removes consecutive duplicate lines from a stream or file. Usually paired with sort.

\$ uni <mark>q &lt;<eof< mark=""> &gt; a</eof<></mark>		
> D > a		
> EOF		
a b		
а		

\$ uniq <<EOF > a > a > b > EOF a b

### uniq, continued

Add the -c option to get a duplicate count:

\$ uniq -c <<EOF
> a
> a
> b
> EOF
 2 a
 1 b

### cut: cut columns

\$ echo abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz > alphabet

First 10 columns

\$ cut -c-10 alphabet
abcdefghij

Columns 10 and greater

\$ cut -c10- alphabet
jklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Columns 10-20

\$ cut -c10-20 alphabet
jklmnopqrst

### cut, continued

Columns 4-6 and 8-13

\$ cut -c4-6,8-13 alphabet
defhijklm

Fields 2-4 and 6, where fields are separated by commas:

```
$ echo 'a,b,c,d,e,f,g' | cut -d',' -f2-4,6
b,c,d,f
```

Be careful, multiple delimiters are not combined:

\$ echo 'a b c' | cut -d' ' -f2
\$ echo 'a b c' | cut -d' ' -f4
b

### paste: concatenate lines

Concatenate columns, separated by space

```
$ paste -d' ' <(seq 3) <(seq 3)
1 1
2 2
3 3</pre>
```

Concatenate lines, separated by comma

\$ paste -d, <(seq 3) <(seq 4)
1,1
2,2
3,3
,4</pre>

"Transpose" with the -s option

\$ paste -s -d, <(seq 3) <(seq 4) 1,2,3 1,2,3,4

### tr: translate characters

Convert ASCII lowercase to uppercase

```
$ cat alphabet | tr 'a-z' 'A-Z'
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
```

Convert arbitrary lowercase to uppercase

```
$ echo 'αβ' | tr '[:lower:]' '[:upper:]'
AB
```

Convert spaces to commas

\$ echo 'a b c' | tr ' ',' a,,b,,,c

Convert spaces to commas, but squeeze commas together

\$ echo 'a b c' | tr -s ' ' ','
a,b,c

# tr, continued

Delete characters

\$ echo 'a,b,c' | tr -d ','
abc

Delete all characters except

\$ echo 'a,b,c' | tr -c -d ','
,,

(-c takes the complement of ', ')

### sed: stream editor

Substitute "brown" with "red"

```
$ echo "quick brown fox" | sed -e 's/brown/red/'
quick red fox
```

Substitute "/bin" with "/usr/local/bin"

```
$ echo "/bin/bash" | sed -e 's:/bin:/usr/local/bin:'
/usr/local/bin/bash
```

Replace all occurrences of "a" with "b"

```
$ echo "a a a" | sed -e 's/a/b/'
b a a
$ echo "a a a" | sed -e 's/a/b/g'
b b b
```

# awk: stream text processing

Named after the initials of its creators.

Invert column 1

\$ seq 3 | awk '{print \$1, 1/\$1}'
1 1
2 0.5
3 0.333333

Unlike bash, where all arithmetic is integer, in awk all arithmetic is floating point.
# More useful programs

- diff : file differences
- find
- rsync
- ssh
- scp
- top
- ps
- vi
- nohup
- screen
- tee
- curl
- wget
- wc
- join
- du
- mount
- chown
- chmod
- ln
- tar

### Stupid Shell Tricks

### Example: sum fields in XML file

Say we have an XML file,

```
$ curl -0 http://www.canfar.phys.uvic.ca/vospace/nodes
$ cat nodes
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/xsl" href="http://www.canfar.phys.uvic.ca/vospace/vosp
<vos:node xmlns:vos="http://www.ivoa.net/xml/VOSpace/v2.0" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w</pre>
  <vos:properties>
    <vos:prop uri="ivo://ivoa.net/vospace/core#ispublic" readOnly="false">true</vo</pre>
  </vos:properties>
  <vos:nodes>
    <vos:node uri="vos://cadc.nrc.ca!vospace/APASS" xsi:type="vos:ContainerNode">
      <vos:properties>
        <vos:prop uri="ivo://ivoa.net/vospace/core#length" readOnly="true">-532343
        <vos:prop uri="ivo://ivoa.net/vospace/core#date" readOnly="true">2015-07-0
        <vos:prop uri="ivo://ivoa.net/vospace/core#ispublic" readOnly="false">true
        <vos:prop uri="ivo://ivoa.net/vospace/core#creator" readOnly="false">CN=we
      </vos:properties>
      <vos:nodes />
    </vos:node>
```

and we'd like to sum up the "length" fields.

### Example: sum fields in XML file (2)

First, filter out the "length" lines

grep 'core#length' nodes \

Next, grab just the number

| egrep -o '[0-9]+' \

Finally, sum the entries

| { s=0; while read x; do s=\$((s+x)); done; echo \$s; }

All together,

```
$ grep 'core#length' nodes \
> | egrep -o '[0-9]+' \
> | { s=0; while read x; do s=$((s+x)); done; echo $s; }
69189164087043
```

# Example: sum fields in XML file (3)

You can also define a sum function, and use it as the last step of the pipe:

```
$ sum() {
> local s=0
> while read x; do
> s=$((s+x))
> done
> echo $s
> }
$ grep 'core#length' nodes | egrep -o '[0-9]+' | sum
69189164087043
```

# Example: find the biggest users on SciNet

\$ showstats -u
statistics initialized Thu Jun 25 22:39:14

	Active			Completed				
user	Jobs	Procs	ProcHours	Jobs	PHDed	% FSTgt	Effic	WCAcc
user001	19	2496	58790.76	503	2.80M	6.44	97.84	87.43
user002	1	152	5133.38	486	2.31M	5.32	8.51	52.71
user003	1	512	12941.65	6957	2.06M	4.73	159.68	55.40
user004	2	16	260.71	868	1.26M	2.90	96.80	21.12
user005	4	1536	54752.64	213	1.19M	2.74	98.20	46.37
user006	1	192	9098.40	164	978.8K	2.25	98.58	76.00
user007	1	128	3316.02	1839	911.1K	2.10	6.66	9.02
user008	33	1056	32067.62	580	879.0K	2.02	98.00	97.59
user009	31	732	3118.31	3718	873.9K	2.01	190.14	82.13
user010	0	0	0.00	5938	871.3K	2.00	93.36	75.05
user011	0	0	0.00	2073	861.2K	1.98	11.54	30.07
user012	1	520	4735.32	258	795.1K	1.83	2.41	66.35
user013	20	480	17312.31	1441	712.3K	1.64	31.78	52.24
user014	38	1520	30901.51	774	700.0K	1.61	98.20	45.77
user015	8	320	7443.33	4419	663.1K	1.52	39.80	12.38

# Example: find the biggest users on SciNet (2)

First, multiply columns 7 (percent nodes used) and 9 (efficiency) together. NF is the number of fields per line.

showstats -u | awk 'NF == 16 {print \$1, \$7\*\$9}' \

Next, reverse numeric sort by column 2

| **sort** -r -n -k 2,2

Finally, just grab the top 10

| head -n 10

# Example: find the biggest users on SciNet (3)

Altogether,

```
$ showstats -u | awk 'NF == 10 {print $1, $7*$9}' \
    | sort -r -n -k 2,2 | head -n 10
user003 755.286
user001 630.09
user009 382.181
user004 280.72
user005 269.068
user005 269.068
user006 221.805
user008 197.96
user024 187.475
user010 186.72
user014 158.102
```

### Writing Scripts

### Our first script:

```
$ cat >script1 <<EOF
> #!/bin/bash
> echo "hello, world!"
> EOF
$ cat script1
#!/bin/bash
echo "hello, world!"
```

Change permissions

\$ ls -l script1
-rw-r--r- 1 nolta staff 33 13 Jul 08:21 script1
\$ chmod +x script1
-rwxr-xr-x 1 nolta staff 33 13 Jul 08:21 script1

Run the script

\$ ./script1
hello, world!

#### Thanks! Questions?