



# The Unix Shell

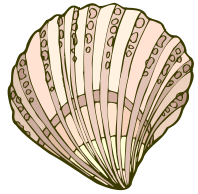
## Job Control



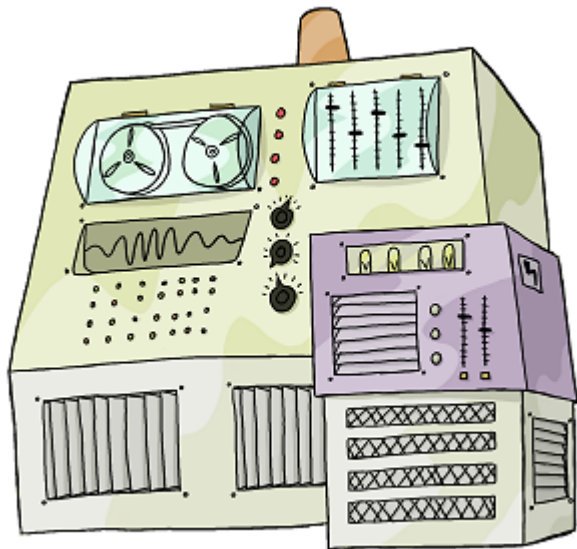
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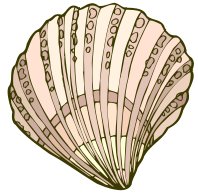
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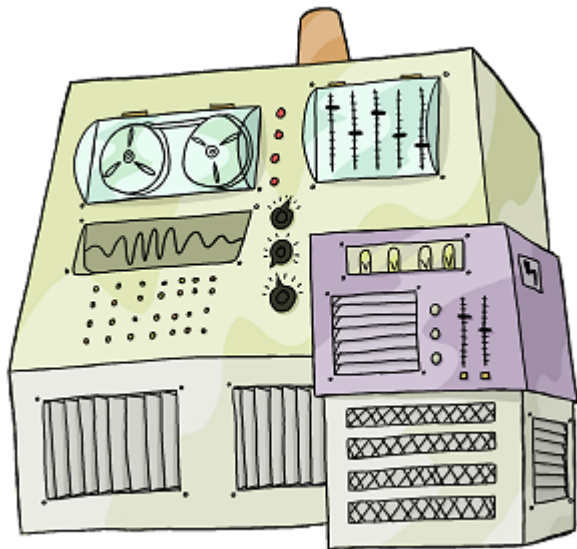
shell

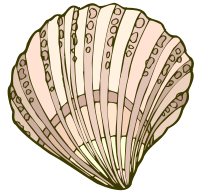




shell

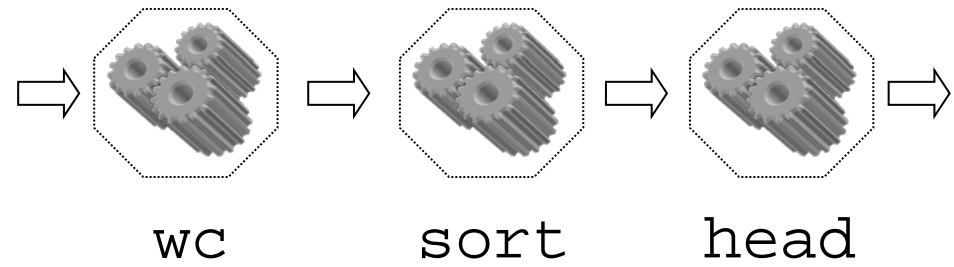
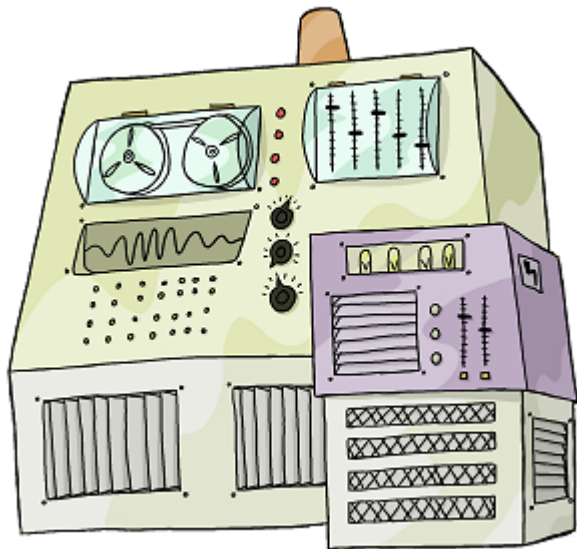
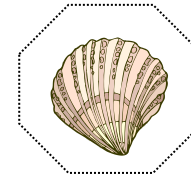
```
$ wc -l *.pdb | sort | head -1
```

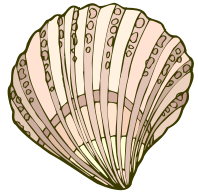




shell

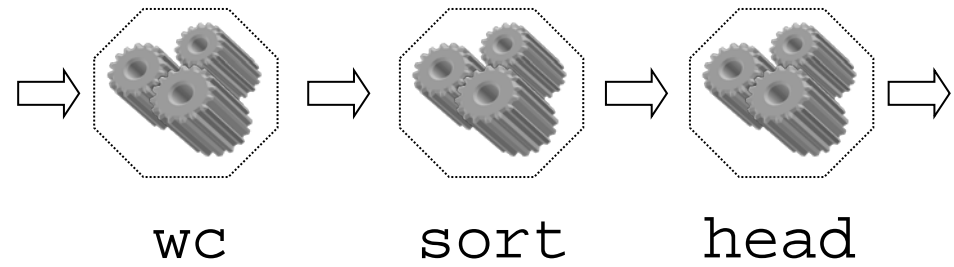
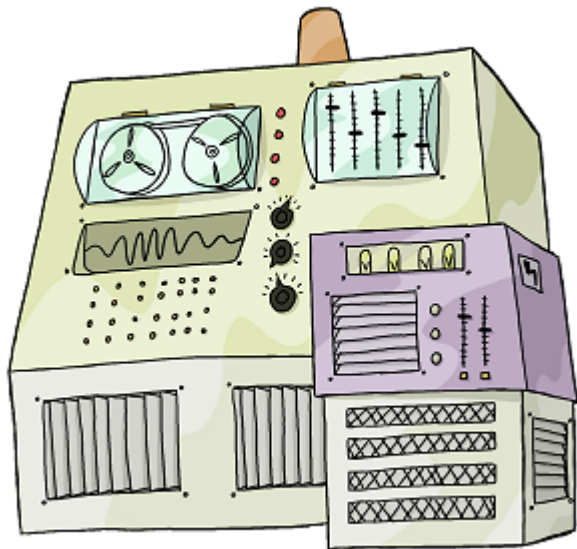
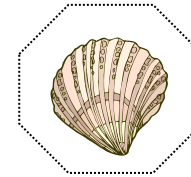
```
$ wc -l *.pdb | sort | head -1
```



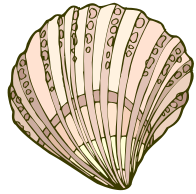


shell

```
$ wc -l *.pdb | sort | head -1
```

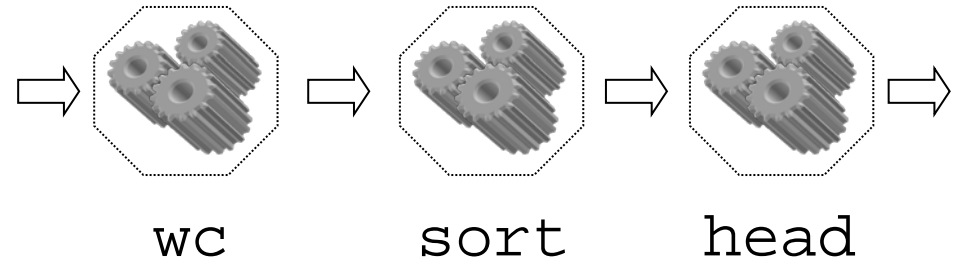
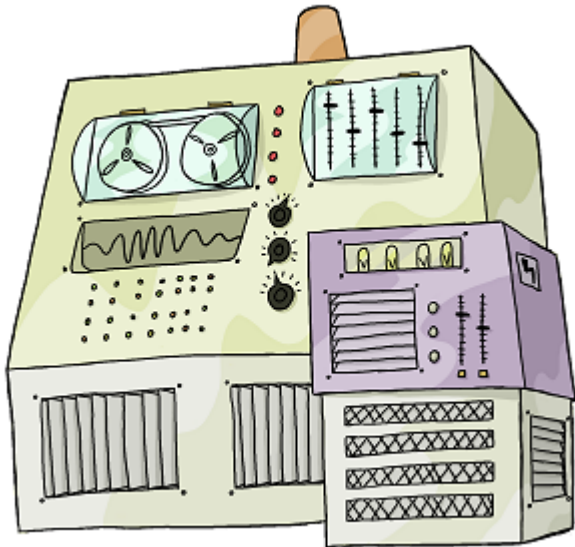
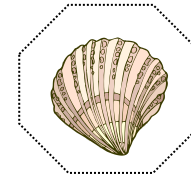


*Control programs while they run*



shell

```
$ wc -l *.pdb | sort | head -1
```



*processes*

*Control ~~programs~~ while they run*

A *process* is a running program

*A process* is a running program

**Some are yours**



A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

```
$ ps
```

```
PID      PPID     PGID     TTY      UID       STIME     COMMAND
2152      1        2152     con      1000      13:19:07  /usr/bin/
2276     2152     2276     con      1000      14:53:48  /usr/bin/
```

```
$
```

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

\$ `ps`

| <code>PID</code> | <code>PPID</code> | <code>PGID</code> | <code>TTY</code> | <code>UID</code> | <code>STIME</code> | <code>COMMAND</code> |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2152             | 1                 | 2152              | con              | 1000             | 13:19:07           | /usr/bin/            |
| 2276             | 2152              | 2276              | con              | 1000             | 14:53:48           | /usr/bin/            |

\$

Process ID (unique at any moment)

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

\$ `ps`

| <i>PID</i> | <i>PPID</i> | <i>PGID</i> | <i>TTY</i> | <i>UID</i> | <i>STIME</i> | <i>COMMAND</i>   |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| 2152       | 1           | 2152        | <i>con</i> | 1000       | 13:19:07     | <i>/usr/bin/</i> |
| 2276       | 2152        | 2276        | <i>con</i> | 1000       | 14:53:48     | <i>/usr/bin/</i> |

\$

Parent process ID



A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

\$ `ps`

| <i>PID</i> | <i>PPID</i> | <i>PGID</i> | <i>TTY</i> | <i>UID</i> | <i>STIME</i> | <i>COMMAND</i> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2152       | 1           | 2152        | con        | 1000       | 13:19:07     | /usr/bin/      |
| 2276       | 2152        | 2276        | con        | 1000       | 14:53:48     | /usr/bin/      |

Parent process ID

What process created this one?

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

`$ ps`

| <i>PID</i> | <i>PPID</i> | <i>PGID</i> | <i>TTY</i> | <i>UID</i> | <i>STIME</i> | <i>COMMAND</i> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2152       | 1           | 2152        | con        | 1000       | 13:19:07     | /usr/bin/      |
| 2276       | 2152        | 2276        | con        | 1000       | 14:53:48     | /usr/bin/      |

Process group ID

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

```
$ ps
```

| <i>PID</i> | <i>PPID</i> | <i>PGID</i> | <i>TTY</i> | <i>UID</i> | <i>STIME</i> | <i>COMMAND</i> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2152       | 1           | 2152        | con        | 1000       | 13:19:07     | /usr/bin/      |
| 2276       | 2152        | 2276        | con        | 1000       | 14:53:48     | /usr/bin/      |

```
$
```

What terminal (TTY) is it running in?



A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

```
$ ps
```

| <i>PID</i> | <i>PPID</i> | <i>PGID</i> | <i>TTY</i> | <i>UID</i> | <i>STIME</i> | <i>COMMAND</i> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2152       | 1           | 2152        | con        | 1000       | 13:19:07     | /usr/bin/      |
| 2276       | 2152        | 2276        | con        | 1000       | 14:53:48     | /usr/bin/      |

What terminal (TTY) is it running in?  
'?' indicates a system service (no TTY)

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

\$ `ps`

| <i>PID</i> | <i>PPID</i> | <i>PGID</i> | <i>TTY</i> | <i>UID</i> | <i>STIME</i> | <i>COMMAND</i> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2152       | 1           | 2152        | con        | 1000       | 13:19:07     | /usr/bin/      |
| 2276       | 2152        | 2276        | con        | 1000       | 14:53:48     | /usr/bin/      |

\$

The user ID of the process's owner

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

`$ ps`

| <i>PID</i> | <i>PPID</i> | <i>PGID</i> | <i>TTY</i> | <i>UID</i> | <i>STIME</i> | <i>COMMAND</i> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2152       | 1           | 2152        | con        | 1000       | 13:19:07     | /usr/bin/      |
| 2276       | 2152        | 2276        | con        | 1000       | 14:53:48     | /usr/bin/      |

`$`

The user ID of the process's owner

Controls what the process can read, write, execute, ...

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

\$ `ps`

| <i>PID</i> | <i>PPID</i> | <i>PGID</i> | <i>TTY</i> | <i>UID</i> | <i>STIME</i> | <i>COMMAND</i> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2152       | 1           | 2152        | con        | 1000       | 13:19:07     | /usr/bin/      |
| 2276       | 2152        | 2276        | con        | 1000       | 14:53:48     | /usr/bin/      |

When the process was started

A *process* is a running program

Some are yours

Most belong to the operating system (or other users)

Use `ps` to get a list

```
$ ps
```

| <i>PID</i> | <i>PPID</i> | <i>PGID</i> | <i>TTY</i> | <i>UID</i> | <i>STIME</i> | <i>COMMAND</i> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2152       | 1           | 2152        | con        | 1000       | 13:19:07     | /usr/bin/      |
| 2276       | 2152        | 2276        | con        | 1000       | 14:53:48     | /usr/bin/      |

```
$
```

The program the process is executing

Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

*...a few minutes pass...*



## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

```
...a few minutes pass...
```

```
^C
```

```
$
```

# Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

*...a few minutes pass...*

**^C**

← Stop the running program

```
$
```

## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat  
...a few minutes pass...  
^C  
$ ./analyze results*.dat &  
$
```

# Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

*...a few minutes pass...*

```
^C
```

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat &
```

```
$
```



Run in the background

## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

*...a few minutes pass...*

```
^C
```

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat &
```

```
$
```

Run in the *background*

Shell returns right away instead  
of waiting for the program to finish

## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat  
...a few minutes pass...  
^C  
$ ./analyze results*.dat &  
$ fbcmd events  
$
```

Can run other programs in the *foreground*  
while waiting for background process(es) to finish

## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

```
...a few minutes pass...
```

```
^C
```

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat &
```

```
$ fbcmd events
```

```
$ jobs
```

```
[1] ./analyze results01.dat results02.dat results03.
```

```
$
```

## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

```
...a few minutes pass...
```

```
^C
```

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat &
```

```
$ fbcmd events
```

```
$ jobs ← Show background processes
```

```
[1] ./analyze results01.dat results02.dat results03.
```

```
$
```



## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

```
...a few minutes pass...
```

```
^C
```

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat &
```

```
$ fbcmd events
```

```
$ jobs
```

```
[1] ./analyze results01.dat results02.dat results03.
```

```
$ fg
```

## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

```
...a few minutes pass...
```

```
^C
```

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat &
```

```
$ fbcmd events
```

```
$ jobs
```

```
[1] ./analyze results01.dat results02.dat results03.
```

```
$ fg ← Bring background job to foreground
```

## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

```
...a few minutes pass...
```

```
^C
```

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat &
```

```
$ fbcmd events
```

```
$ jobs
```

```
[1] ./analyze results01.dat results02.dat results03.
```

```
$ fg
```

← Bring background job to foreground  
Use `fg %1`, `fg %2`, etc. if there are  
several background jobs

## Can stop, pause, and resume running processes

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat
```

```
...a few minutes pass...
```

```
^C
```

```
$ ./analyze results*.dat &
```

```
$ fbcmd events
```

```
$ jobs
```

```
[1] ./analyze results01.dat results02.dat results03.
```

```
$ fg
```

```
...a few minutes pass...
```

```
$ ← And finally it's done
```

Use `^Z` to pause a program that's already running

Use `^Z` to pause a program that's already running  
`fg` to resume it in the foreground

Use `^Z` to pause a program that's already running

`f g` to resume it in the foreground

Or `bg` to resume it as a background job

Use `^Z` to pause a program that's already running

`f g` to resume it in the foreground

Or `bg` to resume it as a background job

```
$ ./analyze results01.dat
```



Use `^Z` to pause a program that's already running

`fg` to resume it in the foreground

Or `bg` to resume it as a background job

```
$ ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
^Z
```

```
[1] Stopped ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
$
```

Use `^Z` to pause a program that's already running

`fg` to resume it in the foreground

Or `bg` to resume it as a background job

```
$ ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
^Z
```

```
[1] Stopped ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
$ bg %1
```

```
$
```

Use `^Z` to pause a program that's already running

`fg` to resume it in the foreground

Or `bg` to resume it as a background job

```
$ ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
^Z
```

```
[1] Stopped ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
$ bg %1
```

```
$ jobs
```

```
[1] ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
$
```

Use `^Z` to pause a program that's already running

`fg` to resume it in the foreground

Or `bg` to resume it as a background job

```
$ ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
^Z
```

```
[1] Stopped ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
$ bg %1
```

```
$ jobs
```

```
[1] ./analyze results01.dat
```

```
$ kill %1
```

```
$
```

Job control mattered a lot when users only had one terminal window

Job control mattered a lot when users only had one terminal window

Less important now: just open another window

Job control mattered a lot when users only had one terminal window

Less important now: just open another window

**Still useful when running programs remotely**



created by

Greg Wilson

August 2010



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# The Unix Shell

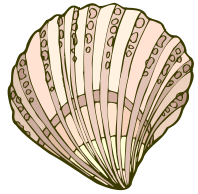
## Variables



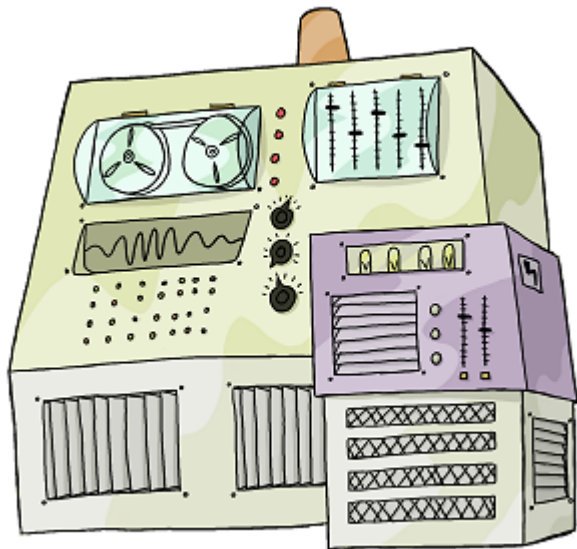
Copyright © Software Carpentry 2010

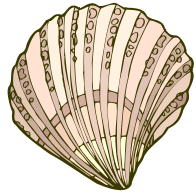
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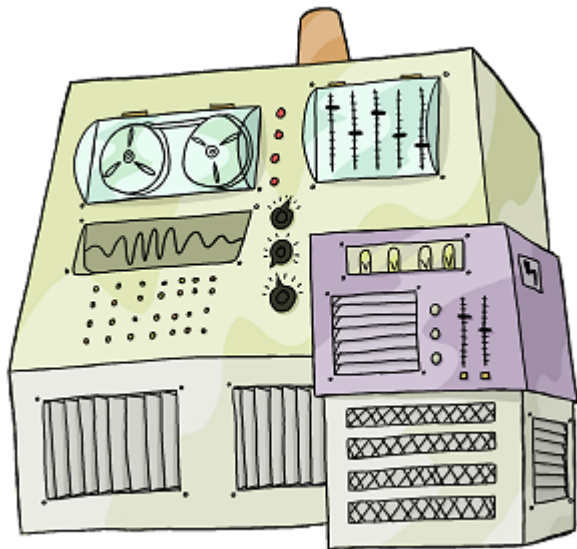
shell

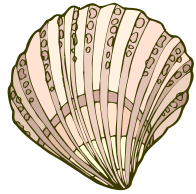




shell

The shell is a program

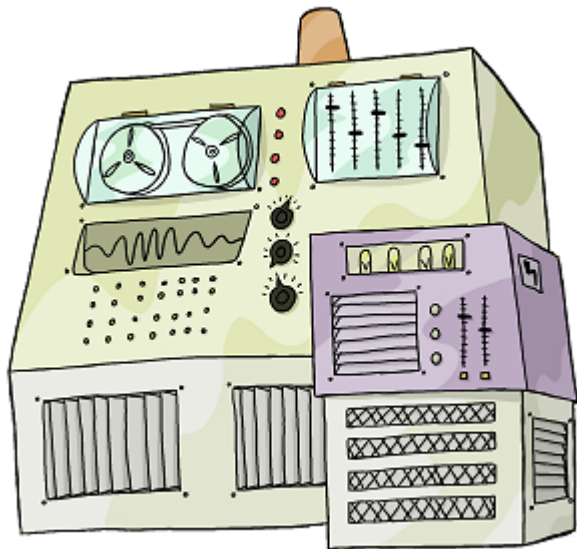


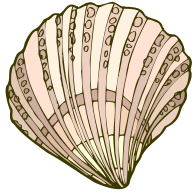


shell

The shell is a program

It has variables





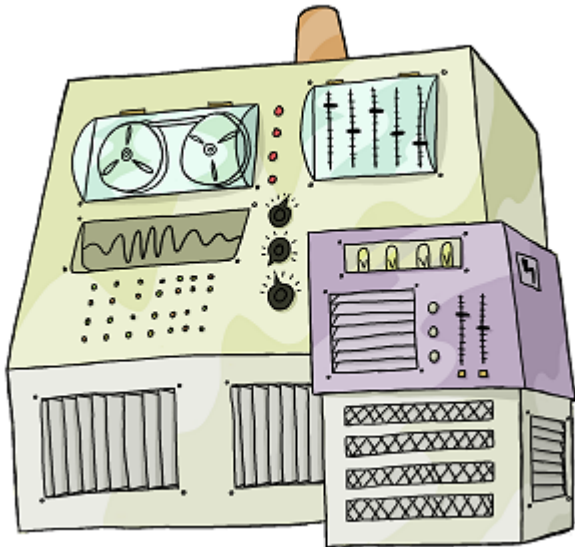
shell

The shell is a program

It has variables

Changing their values

changes its behavior



```
$ set
```

```
COMPUTERNAME=TURING
```

```
HOME=/home/vlad
```

```
HOMEDRIVE=C:
```

```
HOSTNAME=TURING
```

```
HOSTTYPE=i686
```

```
MANPATH=/usr/local/man:/usr/share/man:/usr/man
```

```
NUMBER_OF_PROCESSORS=4
```

```
OS=Windows_NT
```

```
PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows:/cygdrive/c/bin:/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

```
PWD=/home/vlad
```

```
UID=1000
```

```
USERNAME=vlad
```

```
$ set
```



With no arguments, shows all variables and their values

```
COMPUTERNAME=TURING
```

```
HOME=/home/vlad
```

```
HOMEDRIVE=C:
```

```
HOSTNAME=TURING
```

```
HOSTTYPE=i686
```

```
MANPATH=/usr/local/man:/usr/share/man:/usr/man
```

```
NUMBER_OF_PROCESSORS=4
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```
OS=Windows_NT
```

```
PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows:/cygdrive/c/bin:/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

```
PWD=/home/vlad
```

```
UID=1000
```

```
USERNAME=vlad
```

```
$ set
```

Standard to use upper-case names

```
COMPUTERNAME=TURING
```

```
HOME=/home/vlad
```

```
HOMEDRIVE=C:
```

```
HOSTNAME=TURING
```

```
HOSTTYPE=i686
```

```
MANPATH=/usr/local/man:/usr/share/man:/usr/man
```

```
NUMBER_OF_PROCESSORS=4
```

```
OS=Windows_NT
```

```
PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows:/cygdrive/c/bin:/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

```
PWD=/home/vlad
```

```
UID=1000
```

```
USERNAME=vlad
```



```
$ set
```

All values are strings

```
COMPUTERNAME=TURING
```

```
HOME=/home/vlad
```

```
HOMEDRIVE=C:
```

```
HOSTNAME=TURING
```

```
HOSTTYPE=i686
```

```
MANPATH=/usr/local/man:/usr/share/man:/usr/man
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```
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PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows:/cygdrive/c/bin:/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

```
PWD=/home/vlad
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```
UID=1000
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```
$ set
```

```
COMPUTERNAME=TURING
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```
HOME=/home/vlad
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```
HOMEDRIVE=C:
```

```
HOSTNAME=TURING
```

```
HOSTTYPE=i686
```

```
MANPATH=/usr/local/man:/usr/share/man:/usr/man
```

```
NUMBER_OF_PROCESSORS=4
```

```
OS=Windows_NT
```

```
PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows:/cygdrive/c/bin:/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

```
PWD=/home/vlad
```

```
UID=1000
```

```
USERNAME=vlad
```

All values are strings

Programs must convert to other types when/as necessary

```
$ set
```

```
COMPUTERNAME=TURING
```

```
HOME=/home/vlad
```

```
HOMEDRIVE=C:
```

```
HOSTNAME=TURING
```

```
HOSTTYPE=i686
```

```
MANPATH=/usr/local/man:/usr/share/man:/usr/man
```

```
NUMBER_OF_PROCESSORS=4
```

```
OS=Windows_NT
```

```
PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows:/cygdrive/c/bin:/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

```
PWD=/home/vlad
```

```
UID=1000
```

```
USERNAME=vlad
```

int(string) for numbers

```
$ set
```

```
COMPUTERNAME=TURING
```

```
HOME=/home/vlad
```

```
HOMEDRIVE=C:
```

```
HOSTNAME=TURING
```

```
HOSTTYPE=i686
```

```
MANPATH=/usr/local/man:/usr/share/man:/usr/man
```

```
NUMBER_OF_PROCESSORS=4
```

```
OS=Windows_NT
```

```
PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows:/cygdrive/c/bin:/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

```
PWD=/home/vlad
```

```
UID=1000
```

```
USERNAME=vlad
```

split(':') for lists



PATH controls where the shell looks for programs

PATH controls where the shell looks for programs

\$ ./analyze — Run the analyze program  
in the current directory

PATH controls where the shell looks for programs

```
$ ./analyze
```

```
$ /bin/analyze
```

← Run the analyze program  
in the /bin directory

PATH controls where the shell looks for programs

```
$ ./analyze
```

```
$ /bin/analyze
```

```
$ analyze
```



PATH controls where the shell looks for programs

```
$ ./analyze
```

```
$ /bin/analyze
```

```
$ analyze
```

directories = split(PATH, ':')  
for each directory:  
if directory/analyze exists, run it

PATH controls where the shell looks for programs

```
$ ./analyze
```

```
$ /bin/analyze
```

```
$ analyze
```

```
/usr/local/bin
```

```
/usr/bin
```

```
/bin
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows
```

```
/cygdrive/c/bin
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

PATH controls where the shell looks for programs

```
$ ./analyze
```

```
$ /bin/analyze
```

```
$ analyze
```

```
/usr/local/bin
```

```
/usr/bin
```

```
/bin
```

```
/bin/analyze
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows
```

```
/cygdrive/c/bin
```

```
/cygdrive/c/bin/analyze
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

```
/users/vlad/analyze
```

# PATH controls where the shell looks for programs

```
$ ./analyze
```

```
$ /bin/analyze
```

```
$ analyze
```

```
/usr/local/bin
```

```
/usr/bin
```

```
/bin
```

```
/bin/analyze
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows
```

```
/cygdrive/c/bin
```

```
/cygdrive/c/bin/analyze
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Python27
```

```
/users/vlad/analyze
```

# PATH controls where the shell looks for programs

```
$ ./analyze
```

```
$ /bin/analyze
```

```
$ analyze
```

```
/usr/local/bin
```

```
/usr/bin
```

```
/bin
```

```
/bin/analyze
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows/system32
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Windows
```

```
/cygdrive/c/bin
```

```
/cygdrive/c/bin/analyze
```

```
/cygdrive/c/Python27
```



```
/users/vlad/analyze
```

echo prints its arguments

echo prints its arguments

**Use it to show variables' values**

echo prints its arguments

Use it to show variables' values

```
$ echo hello transylvania!
```

```
hello transylvania!
```

```
$
```



echo prints its arguments

Use it to show variables' values

```
$ echo hello transylvania!
```

```
hello transylvania!
```

```
$ echo HOME
```

echo prints its arguments

Use it to show variables' values

```
$ echo hello transylvania!
```

```
hello transylvania!
```

```
$ echo HOME
```

```
HOME
```

```
$
```

echo prints its arguments

Use it to show variables' values

```
$ echo hello transylvania!
```

```
hello transylvania!
```

```
$ echo HOME
```

```
HOME
```

```
$ echo $HOME
```

```
/home/vlad
```

```
$
```

echo prints its arguments

Use it to show variables' values

```
$ echo hello transylvania!
```

```
hello transylvania!
```

```
$ echo HOME
```

```
HOME
```

```
$ echo $HOME
```

```
/home/vlad
```

```
$
```

Ask shell to replace variable name  
with value before program runs



echo prints its arguments

Use it to show variables' values

```
$ echo hello transylvania!
```

```
hello transylvania!
```

```
$ echo HOME
```

```
HOME
```

```
$ echo $HOME
```

```
/home/vlad
```

```
$
```

Ask shell to replace variable name  
with value before program runs  
Just like \* and ? are expanded  
before the program runs

echo prints its arguments

Use it to show variables' values

```
$ echo hello transylvania!
```

```
hello transylvania!
```

```
$ echo HOME
```

```
HOME
```

```
$ echo $HOME → echo /home/vlad
```

```
/home/vlad
```

```
$
```

Create variable by assigning to it

Create variable by assigning to it

Change values by reassigning to existing variables



Create variable by assigning to it

Change values by reassigning to existing variables

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula
```

```
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
```

*Dracula*

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Camilla
```

```
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
```

*Camilla*

```
$
```

Assignment only changes variable's value  
in *this* shell

Assignment only changes variable's value  
in *this* shell

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula
```

```
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
```

```
Dracula
```

```
$
```

Assignment only changes variable's value  
in *this* shell

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula
```

```
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
```

```
Dracula
```

```
$ bash
```

```
$
```

Assignment only changes variable's value  
in *this* shell

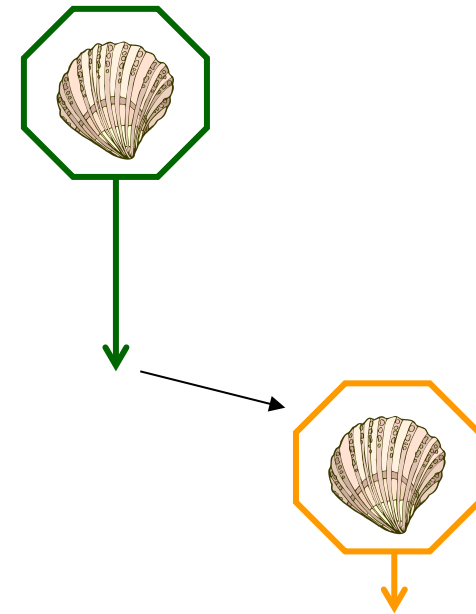
```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula
```

```
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
```

```
Dracula
```

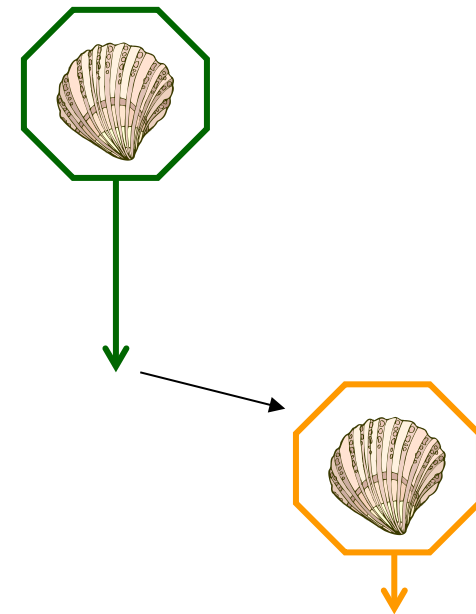
```
$ bash
```

```
$
```



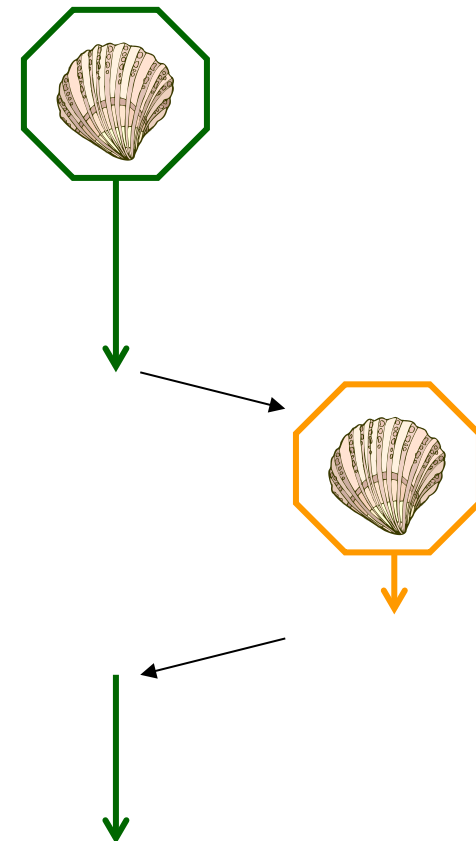
Assignment only changes variable's value  
in *this* shell

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
Dracula
$ bash
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
$
```



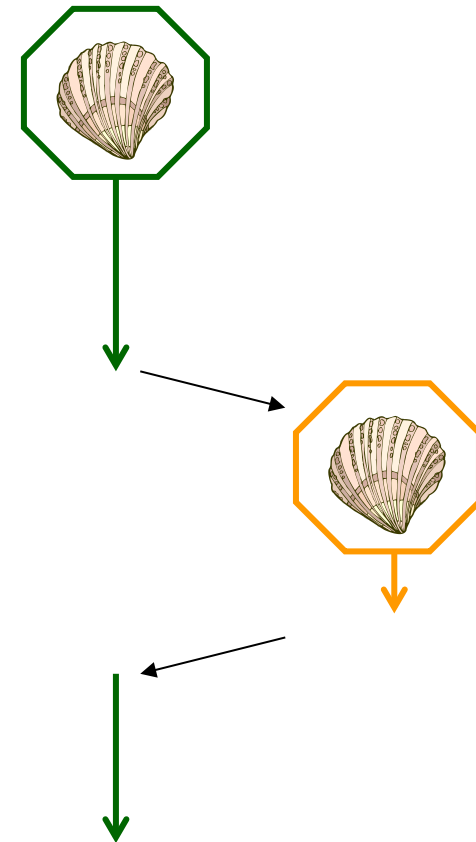
Assignment only changes variable's value  
in *this* shell

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula  
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY  
Dracula  
$ bash  
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY  
$ exit  
$
```



Assignment only changes variable's value  
in *this* shell

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
Dracula
$ bash
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
$ exit
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
Dracula
$
```

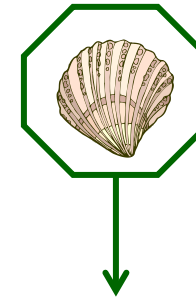




Use `export` to signal that the variable should be visible to subprocesses

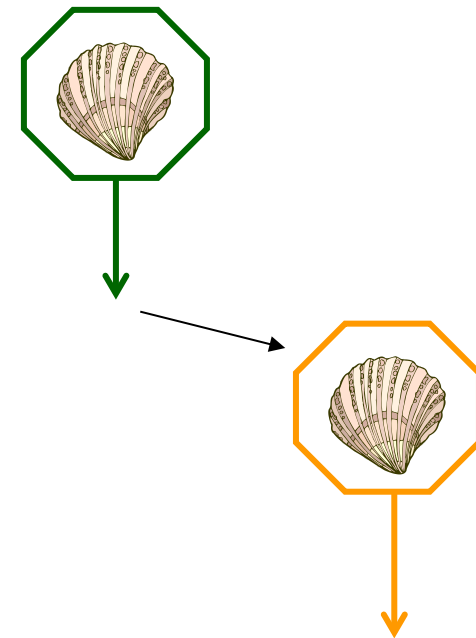
Use export to signal that the variable should be visible to subprocesses

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula  
$ export SECRET_IDENTITY  
$
```



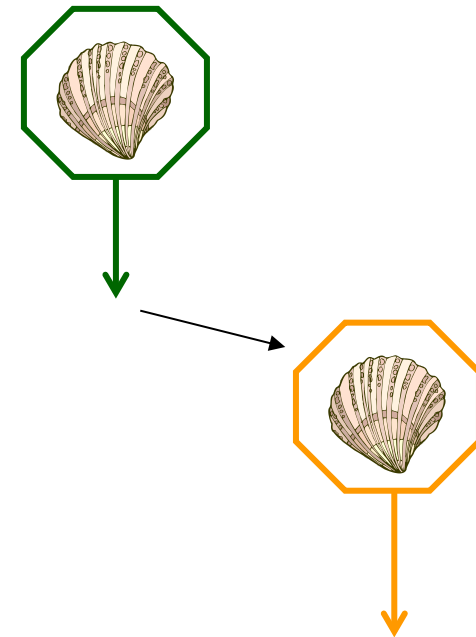
Use export to signal that the variable should be visible to subprocesses

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula
$ export SECRET_IDENTITY
$ bash
$
```



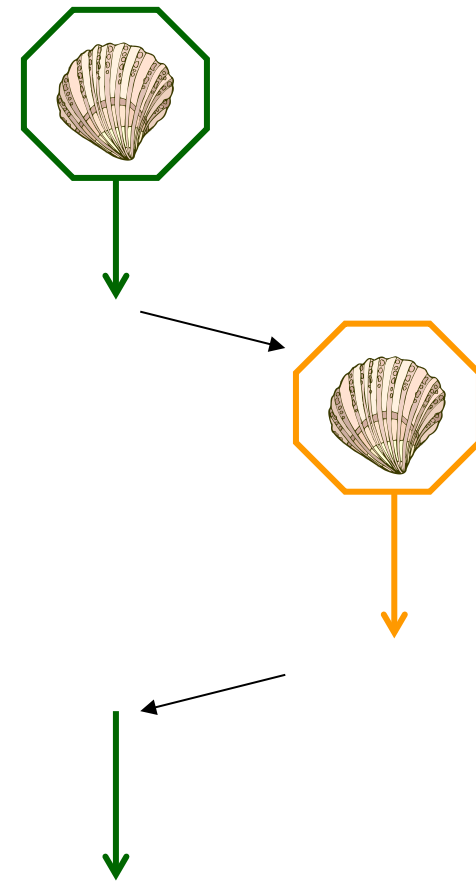
Use export to signal that the variable should be visible to subprocesses

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula
$ export SECRET_IDENTITY
$ bash
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
Dracula
$
```



Use export to signal that the variable should be visible to subprocesses

```
$ SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula
$ export SECRET_IDENTITY
$ bash
$ echo $SECRET_IDENTITY
Dracula
$ exit
$
```



Commands in `$HOME/.bashrc` are executed  
when shell starts

Commands in `$HOME/.bashrc` are executed  
when shell starts

```
export SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula  
export BACKUP_DIR=$HOME/backup
```

```
/home/vlad/.bashrc
```

Commands in `$HOME/.bashrc` are executed  
when shell starts

```
export SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula  
export BACKUP_DIR=$HOME/backup
```

Also common to use `alias` to create shortcuts



Commands in `$HOME/.bashrc` are executed  
when shell starts

```
export SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula  
export BACKUP_DIR=$HOME/backup
```

Also common to use `alias` to create shortcuts

```
alias backup=/bin/zarble -v --nostir -R 20000 $HOME $BACKUP_
```

Commands in `$HOME/.bashrc` are executed  
when shell starts

```
export SECRET_IDENTITY=Dracula  
export BACKUP_DIR=$HOME/backup
```

Also common to use `alias` to create shortcuts

```
alias backup=/bin/zarble -v --noster -R 20000 $HOME $BACKUP_
```

Not something you want to type over and over



created by

Greg Wilson

August 2010



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