

Unix Environment

An Advanced Introduction to Unix/C Programming



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Before You Can Login

Your Unix administrator will create an entry in the `/etc/passwd` file assigning you a unique user id and will set your primary group, your home directory, and your default shell.

```
% sudo adduser --home /home/amy --shell /bin/bash --uid 1001 --gid 50 amy
Adding user `amy' ...
Adding new user `amy' (1001) with group `staff' ...
Creating home directory `/home/amy' ...
Copying files from `/etc/skel' ...
New password: xxxxxxxx
Retype new password: xxxxxxxx
passwd: password updated successfully
Changing the user information for amy
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
  Full Name []: Amy Smith
  Room Number []:
  Work Phone []: 805-111-2222
  Home Phone []: 805-333-4444
  Other []: Remote
Is the information correct? [Y/n] Y
john@oho:~$ grep amy /etc/passwd
amy:x:1001:50:Amy Smith,,805-111-2222,805-333-4444,Remote:/home/amy:/bin/bash
john@oho:~$ ls -ld /home/amy
drwxr-xr-x 1 amy staff 4096 Dec 27 14:46 /home/amy
```

Logging In

- After the Unix administrator provides you with your user id and password, you can login.
- You will likely need to change your password using the passwd command, like so:

```
login: amy
```

```
Password: NiceTry123
```

```
Welcome to Ubuntu 20.04.2 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.4.0-19041-Microsoft x86_64)
```

```
amy@oho:~$ id
```

```
uid=1001(amy) gid=50(staff) groups=50(staff)
```

```
amy@oho:~$ grep amy /etc/passwd
```

```
amy:x:1001:50:Amy Smith,,805-111-2222,805-333-4444,Remote:/home/amy:/bin/bash
```

```
amy@oho:~$ grep staff /etc/group
```

```
staff:x:50:
```

```
amy@oho:~$ passwd
```

← passwd is used to change your password.

```
Changing password for amy.
```

```
Current password: NiceTry123
```

```
New password: NewPassword123
```

```
Retype new password: NewPassword123
```

PATH

```
PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin:/usr/games:  
/usr/local/games:/snap/bin
```

When you type in a command, above directories are searched in order to locate the command to run.

If two directories have the same command name, the first command found in the PATH is run.

What's missing in the above PATH?

PATH

What's missing?

If you type a command found only in your directory, you'll see a "command not found" message.

```
amy@oho:~$ cat c.c
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int main()
```

```
{
```

```
    printf("Hello World!\n");
```

```
}
```

```
amy@oho:~$ gcc c.c
```

```
amy@oho:~$ ls
```

```
a.out c.c
```

```
amy@oho:~$ a.out
```

```
a.out: command not found
```

```
amy@oho:~$ ./a.out
```

```
Hello World!
```

← See "a.out: command not found"

← To run, use ./a.out. The ./ says to look in my current directory only.

How To Correct?

To correct, you can update your PATH by typing:

```
% PATH=.:$PATH
```

or

```
% PATH=$PATH:.
```

But wait! One is correct. The other is wrong. Which is best?

Correct Way

```
% PATH=$PATH:.
```

```
% echo $PATH
```

```
/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin:/usr/games:  
/usr/local/games:/snap/bin:.
```

A hacker can create an executable file, named say “ls”, and add it to one of your directories. When you run “ls”, you could run their “ls” program using all of your permissions instead of the actual /bin/ls command.

By adding the dot (.) to the end of your PATH, you prevent this attack from happening.

But How Are Environment Variables Initialized?

When you login, environment variables, like \$PATH, are set by running these scripts in the following order:

1. `/etc/profile` ← System profile for all users.
2. `/etc/environment` ← Sets the initial PATH for all users.
3. `~/.profile` ← Your .profile file found in your home directory.
4. `/etc/bashrc` ← System bashrc file.
5. `~/.bashrc` ← Your .bashrc file in your home directory.

As a user, you can edit and update your .profile and .bashrc files, e.g., to add . to your PATH. (.bashrc is used if logging in using /sbin/bash.)

```
% more /etc/environment
```

```
PATH="/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin:/usr/games:  
/usr/local/games:/snap/bin"
```


Your Unix Environment

Typing “env” will display your environment variables.

```
amy@oho:~$ env
```

```
SHELL=/bin/bash
```

← You’re using the bash shell.

```
PWD=/home/amy
```

← Print Working Directory (displays the current directory you are in).

```
LOGNAME=amy
```

← Name of the user logged in.

```
MOTD_SHOWN=update-motd
```

← Runs message of the day (MOTD) scripts found in /etc/update-motd.d.

```
HOME=/home/amy
```

← Your home directory.

```
LANG=C.UTF-8  
character set.
```

← Computer. Unified Transformation Format (UTF) – 8-bit variable width

```
LS_COLORS=rs=0:di=01;34:ln=01;36: ...
```

← Colors used for the ls command output.

```
TERM=xterm-256color
```

← Terminal type set to xterm-256color.

```
LESSOPEN=| /usr/bin/lesspipe %s
```

```
USER=amy
```

← Your user id amy

```
PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin:/usr/games:/usr/local/games:/snap/bin
```

```
MAIL=/var/mail/amy
```

← Filename where your email is stored on the system.