

Introduction to Unix Shell Scripting

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Short course on USArray data processing for the next generation of seismologists III

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Go to a work directory/folder and “poke around”, for example:

```
> pwd
> ls ..
> ps
> ls
> uptime
> whoami
> echo -
> echo `man gmtinfo | grep Software | awk '{print substr($11,1,3)}'` uptime | awk '{print
substr($8,1,2), " th" substr($7,3,2) substr($9,7,1)}'`
```

Let’s assume you want to issue this set of commands (for no good reason) each time you cd to a different directory, but are too lazy to type them all in. We can group these “unix commands” into a file that we will then execute and call a “shell script”. Open an editor and place each of the above commands on a separate line in this new file. Save and close the file, lets call it “script1”.

To execute any program, including a shell script, the script needs to have “execute permissions”.

```
> ls -l script1
```

produces:

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 usarray staff 229 Aug 14 13:53 script1
```

If the fourth character is an “x” then the file has “execute permissions”. Our script does not and thus you’ll need to give it that permission:

```
> chmod +x script1
> ls -l script1
```

now produces:

```
-rwxr--r-- 1 usarray staff 229 Aug 14 13:53 script1
```

Your script is ready to run:

```
> script1
```

Great. But there’s more to it; shells come in different flavors. Traditionally, lots of scripting was developed using the csh, but on the iMacs our defaults shell is the bash. The computer need to know within which shell to run your script, particularly if different from the login shell (bash for us). Add that information to your script by making the script’s first line “#!/bin/csh” for the C shell or “#!/bin/bash” for the Bourne again shell. Normally a “#” as the first chracter of a line in a shell script means that the line is a comment rather than a command; the exception is the very first line of the script, where the “#” is *required* for declaring the shell. Now add a conditional statement to your script:

```
if ($user == usarray) then
```


