

1.109.1

Customize and use the shell environment

Weight 5

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

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Outline

Context
Objective
Bash Configuration Files

Aliases
Bash functions
License Of This Document

1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Context

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Outline

1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Context

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Context

Objective

Bash Configuration Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This Document

Topic 109 Shells, Scripting, Programming and Compiling [8]

1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Context

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

1.109.1 Customise and use the shell environment [5]

1.109.2 Customise or Write Simple Scripts [3]

Description of Objective

1.109.1 Customize and use the shell environment

1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Candidate should be able to customize shell environments to meet users' needs. This objective includes setting environment variables (e.g. `PATH`) at login or when spawning a new shell. It also includes writing `bash` functions for frequently used sequences of commands.

Key files, terms, and utilities include:

- `~/.bash_profile` — sourced when a person logs in
- `~/.bash_login` — sourced when a person logs in if no `~/.bash_profile`
- `~/.profile` — sourced when a person logs in if no `~/.bash_profile` or `~/.bash_login`
- `~/.bashrc` — sourced when a non-login interactive shell starts
- `~/.bash_logout` — sourced when a person logs out
- `~/.inputrc` — allows a user to specify keystrokes for commands
- `function` — (Bash built-in command)
- `export` — make environment variables available to sub processes

Bash Configuration Files

- ▶ When a user logs in to a `bash` shell the following configuration files are usually executed:

`/etc/profile` System wide profile, common to all users
and shells

`~/.bash_profile` sourced after `/etc/profile` at
login

`~/.bashrc` sourced after `~/.bash_profile` at login

- ▶ Note `~/.bashrc` is executed when any new `bash` shell is spawned

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Bash Aliases

1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

- ▶ Functions work similarly to aliases but allow more complex constructions.

- ▶ They have the following syntax:

```
$ [ function ] NAME() { COMMAND_LIST;} ←
```

- ▶ Where

`function` Optional tag

`NAME ()` The name of the function

`COMMAND_LIST` The body of the function

- ▶ Functions may be stored in `~/ .bashrc`

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Bash Functions

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1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

- ▶ This simple function prints the current working directory and the list of files in it:

```
$ function look() { pwd; ls;} ←
```

- ▶ This function would be used like this:

```
$ look ←
```

```
/home/geoffrey/lpic/general-linux-2/notes  
CVS      _whizzy_gl2.notes.fmt  
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Bash Functions

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Bash Functions

Valid Function Definitions

- ▶ `$ function look() { pwd; ls; }`
- ▶ `$ function look { pwd; ls; }`
- ▶ `$ look() { pwd; ls; }`
- ▶ `$ look()`
 - > {
 - > pwd;
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1.109.1

Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

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1.109.1

Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

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1.109.1

Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

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1.109.1

Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

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1.109.1

Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

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1.109.1

Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

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1.109.1

Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

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1.109.1

Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

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1.109.1

Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

Bash Functions

Example from Jeffrey Dean's Nutshell Book

1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

- ▶ A function that uses a command line argument:

```
$ laps () {↵  
> ls -l $1  
> ps aux | grep `'/usr/bin/basename $1`  
> }
```

- ▶ Use the `laps()` function:

```
$ laps /usr/sbin/sshd ↵  
-rwxr-xr-x    1 root    root      276200 Jun 29 01:28 /usr/sbin/sshd  
root          255  0.0  0.3  2792 1216 ?        S    Aug31   0:00 /usr/sbin/sshd  
geoffrey     1187  0.0  0.1  1332  424 pts/1    R    14:39   0:00 grep sshd
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Bash Functions

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1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

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Bash Functions

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1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

License Of This
Document

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1.109.1
Customize and use the
shell environment
Weight 5

Geoff Robertson

Objective

Bash Configuration
Files

Aliases

Bash functions

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