
Writing a shell

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What is a shell

- A shell is a program that:
 - Reads a command line
 - Parses the command line to find the basic commands and their arguments
 - Executes the commands (typically by creating child processes)
 - It has a script language ... not to be covered in this discussion
 - Examples: csh, sh, bash

Shell commands

- Built-in commands
 - These are built-in system calls
 - Example: `chdir()`, `getcwd()`
- External commands (executables)
 - These are available as executable files
 - Example: `ls`, `vi`

Assignment-7

- Write a shell program having the following features:
 - The cd and pwd commands
 - All executables present in the path
 - Commands of the form **a | b** where **a** and **b** are executables, and **|** is the pipe operator
 - A history of 10 previous commands (indexed as 0 through 9). The command !n should execute the nth command in the history