
IT 1100 Introduction to Operating Systems

Chapter 13 Customizing the Prompt

Displaying the Prompt

- `echo $PS1`

Here are some common escape codes used:

- `\d` displays current date
- `\h` displays the hostname
- `\u` displays the username
- `\w` displays the current working directory

Backing up the current prompt

We create a new variable, then copy the PS1 variable to it

```
ps1_old="$PS1"
```

Creating a new prompt

- `PS1=\u@\h:\w\$`

This will make more sense after you have read the chapter, but to change your PS1 prompt using an alias contains no spaces outside of the quotes and requires alternating quotation marks:

- `alias prompt1="PS1='\u@\h:\w\$'"`

You can even nest a command inside the prompt

- `alias prompt2="PS1='$(date) \u@\h:\w\$'"`

Adding Color to Prompts

Refer to Table 13-2 for color schemes and their associated escape codes.

For example, `\033[0;30m` is black

`\033[0;34m` is blue

Shortcut: instead of using `\033` we can simply use `\e`

Adding Color to Prompts

As an example, a simple prompt like:

```
PS1='\[\033[1;32m\] [\u@\h \w]\$ \[\033[0m\] '
```

is the same as

```
PS1='\[\e[1;32m\] [\u@\h \w]\$ \[\e[0m\] '
```

Can be broken down into these elements:

`\[\e[1;32m]` - an opening square bracket printed in green (1;32m)

`[\u@\h \w]` - username@hostname and the basename of the current working directory

\\$ - the prompt (a # if the UID is 0)

\[e[0m\] - the text reset escape signalling the end of the colour sequence.