

Problem Solver (DI03032011) - Problem Solver

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Contents

CHAPTER 1

Introduction to Linux System Administration

Linux system administration relies heavily on understanding the file system hierarchy and executing commands efficiently. This chapter focuses on the fundamental command-line procedures for navigating the system, managing files, viewing data, and utilizing built-in documentation.

1.1 Navigating the Linux File System

Linux organizes files in a hierarchical tree structure defined by the Filesystem Hierarchy Standard (FHS).

Methodology:

Navigating the Linux File System To navigate and interact with the Linux file system, use the following standard command-line procedures:

1. **Print Working Directory:** Execute `pwd` to display the absolute path of the current directory.
2. **Change Directory:** Execute `cd <path>` to move to a different location.
 - `cd /` navigates to the root directory.
 - `cd ~` navigates to the current user's home directory.
 - `cd ..` navigates up one directory level.
3. **List Directory Contents:** Execute `ls` to view files and subdirectories.
 - `ls -l` displays long format (shows permissions, ownership, size, and modification date).
 - `ls -a` displays all files including hidden files (starting with a dot `.`).
 - `ls -la` combines long format and hidden file display.

Worked Example:

Navigating and Listing Files A system administrator needs to verify their current location, move to the system configuration directory, and list all hidden files in long format to inspect permissions.

Solution:

1. **Step 1: Check current directory.** Execute the print working directory command:
`pwd`
2. **Step 2: Change to the system configuration directory.** The standard configuration directory in the FHS is `/etc`. Execute:
`cd /etc`
3. **Step 3: List all files including hidden ones in long format.** Execute the list command with `-l` and `-a` flags:
`ls -la`
4. **Result:** The output will display detailed file metadata for all configuration files.

1.2 Basic File and Directory Operations

Methodology:

Creating and Managing Files and Directories The following algorithms are used for standard file and directory management:

1. **Create a Directory:** Use `mkdir <directory_name>`.
2. **Create an Empty File:** Use `touch <file_name>`.
3. **Copy Files or Directories:** Use `cp <source> <destination>`.
 - Add the `-r` flag (`cp -r`) to copy directories recursively.
4. **Move or Rename Files:** Use `mv <source> <destination>`.
5. **Remove Files or Directories:** Use `rm <file_name>`.
 - Add the `-r` flag (`rm -r`) to remove directories and their contents.
 - Use `rmdir <directory_name>` to remove only empty directories.

Worked Example:

File Organization Task You must create a project directory named `webapp`, create an `index.html` file inside it, copy the `nginx.conf` file from `/etc/` to the new directory, and then rename the directory to `production_app`.

Solution:

1. **Step 1: Create the directory.** `mkdir webapp`
2. **Step 2: Navigate into the directory and create the empty file.** `cd webapp`
`touch index.html`
3. **Step 3: Copy the configuration file to the current location.** The dot (`.`) represents the current directory.
`cp /etc/nginx.conf .`
4. **Step 4: Move up one level and rename the directory.** `cd ..`
`mv webapp production_app`

1.3 Viewing File Contents

Methodology:

Tools for Viewing File Contents To read the contents of files in the terminal without opening an editor, apply the following commands based on the file size and reading requirements:

1. **Concatenate and Display:** Best for short files that fit on one screen.
`cat <file_name>`
2. **Paging Through Files:** Best for large files. Allows vertical scrolling.
`less <file_name>`
3. **Viewing the Beginning:** Extracts the first 10 lines by default.
`head -n <lines> <file_name>`
4. **Viewing the End:** Extracts the last 10 lines by default.
`tail -n <lines> <file_name>`

5. **Following Live Logs:** Continuously updates terminal output as new lines are appended to a file.
- ```
tail -f <log_file>
```

### Worked Example:

**Log File Analysis** A system error recently occurred. You need to view the last 15 lines of the system message log located at `/var/log/syslog`, and then monitor it continuously for any new incoming error messages.

**Solution:**

1. **Step 1: View the last 15 lines of the log.** Use the `tail` command with the `-n` option:  

```
tail -n 15 /var/log/syslog
```
2. **Step 2: Monitor the log file in real-time.** Use the `tail` command with the `-f` (follow) option:  

```
tail -f /var/log/syslog
```
3. **Step 3: Terminate the real-time monitoring.** Press `Ctrl + C` in the terminal to interrupt the command and return to the prompt.

## 1.4 Understanding File Permissions

### Methodology:

**Reading File Permissions** Executing `ls -l` outputs a 10-character string (e.g., `-rwxr-xr-`) representing file type and access rights. Read it using the following method:

1. **Identify File Type:** Analyze the first character.
  - `-` indicates a regular file.
  - `d` indicates a directory.
  - `l` indicates a symbolic link.
2. **Identify Access Blocks:** The remaining 9 characters form three sets of 3 characters:
  - **Owner (User):** Characters 2-4
  - **Group:** Characters 5-7
  - **Others (World):** Characters 8-10
3. **Interpret Permissions:** Each triplet specifies Read (`r`), Write (`w`), and Execute (`x`) rights. A hyphen (`-`) means the permission is denied.
  - `r`: Allows reading file contents or listing directory contents.
  - `w`: Allows modifying the file or adding/removing files in a directory.
  - `x`: Allows executing a program or entering a directory via `cd`.

### Worked Example:

**Interpreting Permission Strings** An administrator runs `ls -l` and observes the following output for a file named `backup.sh`:

```
-rwxrw-r- 1 root sysadmin 2048 Mar 15 10:00 backup.sh
```

Determine the file type and the exact permissions for the owner, group, and others.

**Solution:**

1. **Step 1: Analyze the first character.** The string starts with `-`, indicating that `backup.sh` is a regular file.

2. **Step 2: Analyze Owner permissions (characters 2-4).** The block is `rwX`. The owner (root) has read, write, and execute permissions.
3. **Step 3: Analyze Group permissions (characters 5-7).** The block is `rw-`. Members of the group (sysadmin) can read and write, but cannot execute the file.
4. **Step 4: Analyze Others permissions (characters 8-10).** The block is `r--`. Any other user on the system has strictly read-only access.

## 1.5 Accessing System Documentation

### Methodology:

Using Man Pages and Help Systems To quickly find command syntax, flags, and usage examples, administrators rely on built-in documentation systems:

1. **Manual Pages (man):** To open the detailed manual for any command, use:  
`man <command_name>`
  - Press `Space` to page down.
  - Press `/` followed by a search term to find specific keywords.
  - Press `q` to exit the manual.
2. **Short Help Option:** To print a brief summary of flags directly in the terminal, use:  
`<command_name> -help`
3. **Keyword Search (apropos):** To find a command based on its functionality, search the manual descriptions using:  
`apropos <keyword>`

### Worked Example:

**Finding Command Information** An administrator needs to list directory contents and sort them by modification time (newest first), but does not remember the exact flag for the `ls` command. Determine the flag using the manual pages.

#### Solution:

1. **Step 1: Open the manual page.** Execute: `man ls`
2. **Step 2: Search for the sorting keyword.** Type `/sort by time` or `/modification time` and press `Enter` to jump to relevant matches.
3. **Step 3: Locate the correct flag.** The manual will reveal that the `-t` flag is used to sort by modification time (newest first).
4. **Step 4: Exit and execute.** Press `q` to quit the manual page.  
Execute: `ls -t`

## CHAPTER 2

# User and Group Management

In Linux system administration, managing users, groups, and file permissions is crucial for system security and organization. This chapter focuses on the command-line techniques and problem-solving methods required to perform these administrative tasks efficiently.

## 2.1 Managing Users

Managing users involves creating new user accounts, modifying existing account properties, and defining password aging policies to maintain security.

### Methodology:

User Creation and Modification To manage user accounts, use the following commands and their common options:

#### 1. Create a User (**useradd**):

- `useradd -m <username>` (Creates user and home directory)
- `useradd -d <path> <username>` (Specifies custom home directory)
- `useradd -s <shell> <username>` (Specifies default shell e.g. `/bin/bash`)
- `useradd -e YYYY-MM-DD <username>` (Sets account expiration date)

#### 2. Modify a User (**usermod**):

- `usermod -l <newname> <oldname>` (Changes username)
- `usermod -L <username>` (Locks the user account)
- `usermod -U <username>` (Unlocks the user account)

#### 3. Delete a User (**userdel**):

- `userdel <username>` (Deletes user account only)
- `userdel -r <username>` (Deletes user account and their home directory)

#### 4. Verify User Identity (**id**):

- `id <username>` (Displays UID GID and group memberships)

### Worked Example:

Creating and Modifying a User Account **Problem:** Perform the following administrative tasks:

1. Create a user named `alice` with a custom home directory `/home/alicedev` and default shell `/bin/bash`.
2. Set the account to expire on December 31 2025.

3. Lock the account temporarily to restrict access.
4. Verify the user details to ensure correctness.

### Solution:

1. Create the user with specified attributes:

```
sudo useradd -m -d /home/alicedev -s /bin/bash -e 2025-12-31 alice
```

2. Lock the user account:

```
sudo usermod -L alice
```

3. Verify the user creation and basic attributes:

```
id alice
```

To verify the expiration date and lock status you can check:

```
sudo chage -l alice
```

### Methodology:

Password Management and Policies Administrators use **passwd** to set passwords and **chage** to enforce password aging policies.

1. **Set or Change Password:**

- **passwd <username>** (Prompts to enter a new password)

2. **Configure Password Policies (chage):**

- **chage -M <days> <username>** (Maximum days before password change is required)
- **chage -m <days> <username>** (Minimum days between password changes)
- **chage -W <days> <username>** (Warning days before password expires)
- **chage -I <days> <username>** (Inactive days before account is locked after expiration)
- **chage -l <username>** (Lists current password aging policies)

### Worked Example:

Enforcing Password Aging Policies **Problem:** Configure password policies for the user **bob** such that:

1. He must change his password at least every 90 days.
2. He cannot change his password more than once every 7 days.
3. He receives a warning 14 days before expiration.

### Solution:

1. Apply the password aging policies using **chage**:

```
sudo chage -M 90 -m 7 -W 14 bob
```

2. Verify the applied policies:

```
sudo chage -l bob
```

## 2.2 Managing Groups

Groups simplify the administration of multiple users by allowing collective permission assignments. Rather than setting permissions for each individual user they can be assigned to a group.

### Methodology:

#### Group Creation and Membership Management

1. **Create a Group (groupadd):**

- `groupadd <groupname>`
- `groupadd -g <GID> <groupname>` (Creates a group with a specific GID)

2. **Modify and Delete Groups:**

- `groupmod -n <newname> <oldname>` (Renames a group)
- `groupdel <groupname>` (Deletes a group)

3. **Manage Group Memberships:**

- `usermod -aG <groupname> <username>` (Appends user to a supplementary group without removing them from other groups)
- `gpasswd -a <username> <groupname>` (Adds a single user to a group)
- `gpasswd -d <username> <groupname>` (Removes a user from a group)

4. **View Group Memberships:**

- `groups <username>`

### Worked Example:

Configuring Developer Groups **Problem:** Assume you are the administrator managing access for a development team.

1. Create a new group named `developers`.
2. Add existing users `alice` and `bob` to the `developers` group.
3. Remove `bob` from the group.
4. Rename the group to `devteam`.

#### Solution:

1. Create the group:

```
sudo groupadd developers
```

2. Add users to the group (using the append parameter to preserve other groups):

```
sudo usermod -aG developers alice
sudo usermod -aG developers bob
```

3. Remove bob from the group using gpasswd:

```
sudo gpasswd -d bob developers
```

4. Rename the group using groupmod:

```
sudo groupmod -n devteam developers
```

## 2.3 File Permissions and Ownership

Linux uses a robust permission model to control access to files and directories based on three entity types: User (Owner) Group and Others. Understanding numerical values and symbolic representations is key to solving access control problems.

### Methodology:

Changing File Permissions Using chmod Permissions are Read (r=4) Write (w=2) and Execute (x=1). They can be configured using two modes:

1. **Absolute (Octal) Mode:** Permissions are represented by a three-digit octal number (User-Group-Others).
  - `chmod 755 <file>` (Owner: rwx Group: r-x Others: r-x)
  - `chmod 644 <file>` (Owner: rw- Group: r- Others: r-)
  - `chmod -R 770 <directory>` (Recursively applies to directory and contents)
2. **Symbolic Mode:** Uses symbols to add (+) remove (-) or set (=) permissions. Entities are u (user) g (group) o (others) a (all).
  - `chmod u+x g-w <file>` (Adds execute for owner removes write for group)
  - `chmod a=r <file>` (Sets read-only for everyone)

### Worked Example:

Calculating and Applying Octal Permissions **Problem:** A directory `/projectdata` requires strict access controls:

- The owner should have full access (read write execute).
- The group members should be able to read and execute but not write.
- Others should have absolutely no access.

Calculate the exact octal value and provide the command to apply it recursively.

**Solution:**

1. **Calculate User (Owner) permission:** Read(4) + Write(2) + Execute(1) = 7.
2. **Calculate Group permission:** Read(4) + Execute(1) = 5.

3. **Calculate Others permission:** No access = 0.
4. **Form the Octal value:** Combine the three digits to get 750.
5. **Write the Command:** Use the -R flag for recursive application.

```
sudo chmod -R 750 /projectdata
```

### Methodology:

Changing File Ownership Using chown and chgrp Administrators can transfer file ownership to different users or groups depending on organizational shifts.

1. **Change Owner:**
  - `chown <newowner> <file>`
2. **Change Owner and Group simultaneously:**
  - `chown <newowner>:<newgroup> <file>`
3. **Change Group only (chgrp):**
  - `chgrp <newgroup> <file>`
4. **Recursive Ownership Change:**
  - `chown -R <newowner>:<newgroup> <directory>`

### Worked Example:

Modifying Ownership for a Collaborative Directory **Problem:** You have a directory `/var/www/html/webapp`. You need to set the user ownership to `www-data` and the group ownership to `devteam`. This change must apply to all existing files and subdirectories inside it.

#### Solution:

1. Apply the recursive `chown` command specifying both user and group separated by a colon:

```
sudo chown -R www-data:devteam /var/www/html/webapp
```

2. Verify the changes by listing the directory contents with the long format option:

```
ls -l /var/www/html/webapp
```

### Methodology:

Special Permissions Management Special permissions provide advanced access control features which are highly critical in multi-user environments:

1. **SUID (Set User ID - Value: 4000):** When applied to an executable file the file runs with the privileges of the file owner rather than the user executing it. (Symbolic: `u+s`)
2. **SGID (Set Group ID - Value: 2000):**
  - On a file: It runs with the privileges of the file's group.

- On a directory: New files created within inherit the directory's group ownership. (Symbolic: `g+s`)
3. **Sticky Bit (Value: 1000):** When applied to a directory only the file owner the directory owner or the root user can delete or rename files within it. This is widely used for `/tmp`. (Symbolic: `+t`)

### Worked Example:

Implementing a Shared Workspace with Special Permissions **Problem:** Design a shared directory `/shareddocs` for the `staff` group. Enforce the following rules:

1. The directory is owned by `root` and the group `staff`.
2. Any new files created inside automatically belong to the `staff` group.
3. Users can only delete files they themselves created not files created by other users.
4. The baseline permissions should be full access for owner group and others (`rw-rw-rw-`) before applying special permissions.

### Solution:

1. Create the directory:

```
sudo mkdir /shareddocs
```

2. Set the ownership to root user and staff group:

```
sudo chown root:staff /shareddocs
```

3. The requirement asks for SGID (ensures new files belong to staff group) and Sticky Bit (restricts deletion to file owners).

- SGID value = 2000
- Sticky Bit value = 1000
- Total special permission = 3000
- Baseline permissions = 777

Combine these to get the four-digit octal value `3777` and apply it:

```
sudo chmod 3777 /shareddocs
```

4. Verify the permissions. The output should display `drwxrwsrwt`:

```
ls -ld /shareddocs
```

# CHAPTER 3

## Process and Service Management

### 3.1 Process Management

In a Linux environment, processes are executing instances of programs. Effective management involves viewing, monitoring, and controlling these processes to ensure system stability.

#### 3.1.1 Viewing and Controlling Processes

Methodology:

Process Identification and Termination To identify and terminate specific processes, follow these steps:

- List Processes:** Use the `ps` command to display active processes.
  - `ps aux`: Displays all running processes for all users.
  - `ps -ef`: Displays a full-format listing of all processes.
- Search for a Specific Process:** Combine `ps` with `grep` to find a specific program's Process ID (PID).
- Terminate the Process:** Use the `kill` command followed by the PID.
  - `kill [PID]`: Sends the default TERM (15) signal for graceful termination.
  - `kill -9 [PID]`: Sends the KILL (9) signal for immediate and forced termination.

Worked Example:

Terminating an Unresponsive Application **Problem:** An application named "firefox" has become unresponsive. Locate its Process ID and force terminate it.

**Solution:**

- Find the PID:** Run the following command to search for the Firefox process:

```
ps aux | grep firefox
```

*Output:*

|      |       |     |     |        |       |   |    |       |      |                  |
|------|-------|-----|-----|--------|-------|---|----|-------|------|------------------|
| user | 14562 | 5.2 | 3.1 | 123456 | 54321 | ? | S1 | 10:00 | 0:15 | /usr/lib/firefox |
| user | 14589 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 9876   | 1234  | ? | S  | 10:01 | 0:00 | grep firefox     |

The PID for the main Firefox process is 14562.

- Terminate the process gracefully:**

```
kill 14562
```

3. **Force terminate (if the process does not respond):**

```
kill -9 14562
```

4. **Verify Termination:** Run the search command again to ensure the process is no longer listed.

### 3.1.2 Background and Foreground Job Control

#### Methodology:

Managing Jobs in the Shell Job control allows you to pause, resume, and move processes between the background and foreground.

1. **Start a Background Job:** Append an ampersand (&) to the command (e.g., `command &`).
2. **Suspend a Foreground Job:** Press `Ctrl + Z` to pause the currently running foreground process.
3. **List Active Jobs:** Execute the `jobs` command to view all suspended and background jobs along with their job IDs.
4. **Move to Background:** Use the `bg %[JobID]` command to resume a suspended job in the background.
5. **Bring to Foreground:** Use the `fg %[JobID]` command to bring a background or suspended job to the foreground.

#### Worked Example:

Moving a Task to the Background **Problem:** You started a script `backup.sh` in the foreground which is tying up your terminal. You need to move it to the background so you can continue using the terminal.

**Solution:**

1. **Suspend the running process:** Press `Ctrl + Z`. The terminal will output:

```
[1]+ Stopped ./backup.sh
```

2. **Verify the job ID:** Run the `jobs` command.

```
jobs
```

*Output:*

```
[1]+ Stopped ./backup.sh
```

The job ID is 1.

3. **Resume the job in the background:** Execute the `bg` command with the job ID.

```
bg %1
```

*Output:*

```
[1]+ ./backup.sh &
```

4. **Bring it back to the foreground (Optional):** If you need to interact with it again, use:

```
fg %1
```

## 3.2 System Services Management

Services (or daemons) are processes that run continuously in the background to provide essential system functionalities.

### Methodology:

Service Management using systemctl Modern Linux distributions use **systemd** to manage services. The primary tool is **systemctl**.

1. **Check Service Status:** `systemctl status [service_name]` displays whether the service is active, running, or failed.
2. **Start a Service:** `systemctl start [service_name]` initiates the service immediately.
3. **Stop a Service:** `systemctl stop [service_name]` halts the running service.
4. **Restart a Service:** `systemctl restart [service_name]` stops and then starts the service. Useful after configuration changes.
5. **Enable at Boot:** `systemctl enable [service_name]` configures the service to start automatically when the system boots.
6. **Disable at Boot:** `systemctl disable [service_name]` prevents the service from starting automatically.

*Note:* Legacy systems may use `service [name] start/stop` or `chkconfig [name] on/off`.

### Worked Example:

Configuring the SSH Service **Problem:** You need to ensure the OpenSSH server (**sshd**) is currently running and will start automatically upon system reboots.

**Solution:**

1. **Check the current status:**

```
sudo systemctl status sshd
```

*Output might indicate it is "inactive (dead)".*

2. **Start the service:**

```
sudo systemctl start sshd
```

3. **Enable the service for automatic startup at boot:**

```
sudo systemctl enable sshd
```

*Output:*

```
Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/sshd.service ->
/usr/lib/systemd/system/sshd.service.
```

4. **Verify the final configuration:** Check the status again to ensure it is both active and enabled.

```
sudo systemctl status sshd
```

*Output snippet:*

```
Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/sshd.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
Active: active (running)
```

## 3.3 Monitoring System Performance

System administrators must constantly monitor resources like CPU, Memory, and Disk I/O to maintain optimal performance.

### Methodology:

Resource Monitoring Tools Several command-line tools provide insights into system resource utilization:

1. **top:** Provides a dynamic and real-time view of running system processes, CPU usage, and memory consumption.
2. **htop:** An interactive and visually improved alternative to **top** that allows scrolling and easier process management.
3. **free:** Displays the total, used, and available amount of physical and swap memory in the system. Use the **-h** flag for human-readable output.
4. **vmstat:** Reports information about processes, memory, paging, block IO, traps, and CPU activity. Use **vmstat [delay] [count]** for continuous monitoring.

### Worked Example:

Diagnosing System Slowness **Problem:** The system is responding sluggishly. Use built-in performance monitoring tools to determine if the issue is a lack of RAM or a CPU-intensive process.

**Solution:**

1. **Check Memory Usage:** Execute the **free** command.

```
free -h
```

*Output:*

|      | total | used | free  | shared | buff/cache | available |
|------|-------|------|-------|--------|------------|-----------|
| Mem: | 15Gi  | 14Gi | 500Mi | 200Mi  | 500Mi      | 800Mi     |

|       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Swap: | 4.0Gi | 2.0Gi | 2.0Gi |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|

*Observation:* The "available" memory is very low (800Mi), and swap space is actively being used (2.0Gi). This indicates a potential memory bottleneck.

2. **Identify High Resource Consumers:** Run the `top` command.

```
top
```

*Action within top:* Press `Shift + M` to sort processes by Memory usage to find the culprit.

3. **Analyze the CPU Load:** While still in `top`, look at the `load average` (e.g., `load average: 4.50, 4.20, 3.90`). If this number is consistently higher than the number of CPU cores, the CPU is overloaded. Press `Shift + P` to sort by CPU usage.

4. **Continuous Monitoring (Optional):** To watch memory and CPU trends over time, use `vmstat` with a 2-second delay for 5 iterations.

```
vmstat 2 5
```

## Methodology:

**Log File Analysis** Log files are critical for diagnosing system errors and auditing security. Most logs are stored in the `/var/log/` directory.

1. **cat:** Outputs the entire content of a log file. Best for short logs.
2. **less:** Allows paging through large log files interactively. Search backward/forward using `/pattern`.
3. **tail:** Outputs the last 10 lines of a file by default.
4. **tail -f:** Continuously monitors a file and outputs new lines as they are written (useful for real-time debugging).
5. **Common Logs:**
  - `/var/log/syslog` or `/var/log/messages`: Global system activity logs.
  - `/var/log/auth.log` or `/var/log/secure`: Authentication and authorization events.

## Worked Example:

**Troubleshooting a Failed Web Server via Logs** **Problem:** The Apache web server service failed to start. Analyze the system logs to identify the root cause.

**Solution:**

1. **Check the most recent system messages:** Use `tail` to view the last 20 lines of the system log.

```
sudo tail -n 20 /var/log/syslog
```

2. **Search for specific service errors:** Combine `cat` or `less` with `grep` to filter for "apache2".

```
sudo cat /var/log/syslog | grep apache2
```

*Output snippet:*

```
Aug 14 10:15:22 server apache2[4512]: Address already in use: make_sock:
could not bind to address 0.0.0.0:80
Aug 14 10:15:22 server systemd[1]: apache2.service: Control process exited,
code=exited, status=1
```

3. **Interpret the Error:** The log clearly states `Address already in use...` `could not bind to address 0.0.0.0:80`. This indicates another process is currently running on port 80.
4. **Monitor Logs in Real-time:** If you attempt to restart the service and want to see the error happen live, use:

```
sudo tail -f /var/log/syslog
```

Then, in a separate terminal window, try to start the service again.

## CHAPTER 4

# Shell Scripting Basics

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Shell scripting is a powerful way to automate repetitive system administration tasks in Linux. A shell script is essentially a text file containing a sequence of commands that the shell interprets and executes. This chapter covers the foundational computational techniques for writing shell scripts, controlling execution flow, and scheduling automated jobs.

### 4.1 Writing and Executing a Simple Bash Script

#### Methodology:

Writing and Executing a Script Follow these steps to create and run a basic shell script:

1. **Create a file:** Open a text editor and create a new file with a `.sh` extension (e.g., `script.sh`).
2. **Add the Shebang:** The first line must be `#!/bin/bash`. This tells the operating system to use the Bash shell to execute the script.
3. **Write commands:** Add the Linux commands you want to execute sequentially.
4. **Make it executable:** Run `chmod +x script.sh` to grant execution permissions.
5. **Execute the script:** Run the script using `./script.sh` from the current directory.

#### Worked Example:

**Basic Execution Problem:** Write a shell script that clears the terminal screen and displays the current system date and time.

**Solution:**

1. Create the file `show_date.sh`.
2. Add the following code:

```
#!/bin/bash
clear
echo "The current system date and time is:"
date
```

3. Make the script executable:

```
chmod +x show_date.sh
```

4. Run the script:

```
./show_date.sh
```