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KORN SHELL SCRIPTING OVERVIEW

Korn shell and Bourne shell scripting are worthy occupations. We call shell scripting a glue language as it often acts as an interface between files from different systems. It is not unusual to preformat a file before use on a target system.

The shell is a challenge and it's our job to illustrate the big picture. We start with shell basics, how to create a shell, how to use comments, how to make the script executable. We look in depth at the shell's debugging options and the various options on how to run scripts.

We then look at initialisation files for the Korn shell which includes a session on utilising aliases and the shell's builtin variables.

Next we look at adding intelligence to scripts with conditional constructs like, if and case, boolean constructs and logic.

Interactive scripts comes next. This is where the script prompts the user for input, the user adds it and that input is turned into one or multiple variables. This is a very powerful construct.

Loops are great for achieving repetitive actions and we examine the for, until, while and select loops.

Functions are discussed next and how they fit into the shell's pecking order of executables. There is a demonstration of how to make the best use in the Bourne and Korn shells.

Then we have an introduction to sed, a most incredibly powerful filter tool. Sed can be accessed from the command line or by use of batch files. Both methods are discussed in detail.

Sed is followed by an introduction to grep and regular expressions. Regular expressions are one of the most powerful tools available to a programmer and there's a full introduction and demonstration on how the basic regular expression metacharacters combine to produce startling processing results.

Then we have an introduction to the nawk programming language. Nawk is a high-level structured programming language in that it utilises sequence, loops, conditions and functions to achieve incredible processing power.

And finally a description of traps and how it utilises Unix signals to commit certain actions under certain circumstances.

Please call Vince Stevenson on 07731-876304 for further details of this Solaris Fundamentals Course or email vince@bdv-unix-skills.co.uk.