

Re: Bash commands: maybe they want to drive us crazy?

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.misc/2004-07/0057.html>

From: GP (gilpel_at_inverse.nretla.org)

Date: 07/01/04

Date: Wed, 30 Jun 2004 23:48:28 -0400

Bill Unruh wrote:

```
> lfind -iname . "*IPv6"
>
> -iname is an option which takes one argument. That argument to the option in this case is
> '*IPV6*' (NOT "*IPv6*" because the latter would cause the shell to expand
> the *s, not find)
```

Ok. Let's examine this first argument. Mr Unruh pretends that

double quotes cause the shell to expand the *

whereas

single quotes would cause the find command to expand the *

Which means that a shell command and the shell itself are two very different things.

Well... if that's not new Linux to you, it certainly is to me and there is absolutely no doubt I could have a rather lengthy discussion on the matter. But, since "I" know nothing, in a socratican kind of way, I'll let my system answer.

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT QUOTES
(but were too afraid to ask ;)

```
~$ echo ` $LOGNAME `
-bash: gp: command not found
```

The shell seems to expect a command inside back quotes (or back ticks, as they are often referred to). It's not pleased with a variable. Let's feed it a command!

```
~$ echo `ps`
PID TTY TIME CMD 1779 pts/2 00:00:00 bash 1856 pts/2 00:00:00 ps
```

The shell interprets the command.

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```
~$ echo '$LOGNAME'  
$LOGNAME
```

Here, the single quotes turns the shell into parrot. Let's feed it a command.

```
~$ echo 'ps'  
ps
```

Same here. Sorry for this abominable untechnical language, but the single quotes do turn the shell into a parrot.

```
~$ echo "$LOGNAME"  
gp
```

Double quotes expand the variable into its value.

```
~$ echo "ps"  
ps
```

But dumbly echo the command exactly as single quotes do.

As we all know:

If we include something inside of double-quotes, everything loses its special meaning except for the variable operator (\$), the back-slash (\), the back-tick (`)

<http://www.linux-tutorial.info/modules.php?name=Tutorial&pageid=20>

Thanks Linux tutorial!

So, please cd to /etc and issue the following commands:

```
find . -iname '*net*'  
find . -iname "**net**"
```

What's the difference? None! Why? Because, since there is no \$, \ or `` inside the double quotes, it is exactly equivalent to single quotes.

Conclusion:

Contrary to the pretention of Mr Unruh, there is absolutely no difference between a shell and a shell command interpretation.

This being a very basic matter, either Mr Unruh is a dummy posing as an expert or he's a troll. Lady and gents, the choice is yours.

What? Yes, of course, Mr Unruh, you may engrave my name 'till' the end of times in your kill file. My pleasure! So can you, Mr Davidson. I don't need your /advice/ and I do believe nobody here does.

Best regards!

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GP