

Lab #3
Automating Installation & Introduction to Make
Due in Lab, September 15, 2004

Name: _____

Lab Time: _____

Grade: _____/10

Error Checking

In this lab you will be writing a shell script to automate the installation of a system. The system that your shell script will install is the gnuchess system that you installed by hand in lab 1. Since commands are not being typed interactively by a user, a shell script needs to avoid making assumptions. Error messages generated during the execution of a shell script are likely to go unnoticed as the output scrolls quickly across the screen. The programmer of a shell script, therefore, should be aware of, and try to prevent, possible error conditions that might occur when the shell script executes.

One possible source of errors is the directory structure. A shell script should avoid using non-existent directories. As such, it needs to check for the existence of any directory it intends to use, and be able to create missing directories as needed. Of course, there is a limit to how much checking a shell script can or should do. For example, shell scripts rarely need to check for the existence of a user's home directory.

The amount of error checking required is, therefore, a design decision that must be made by the script's programmer. Before making this decision, the programmer should consider the script's users. How likely are they to encounter a particular error, and will they be able to deal with it, if it is not handled by the shell script? In addition, a programmer may have external requirements imposed by a manager, or customer, specifying the type of errors that must be handled.

Your shell script should not make assumptions about the existence of architecture-specific subdirectories (such as `.../arch/x86/build/...`, etc.) when building and installing the gnuchess program. If any required directory does not exist, your shell script needs to create it. This allows your shell script to proceed with confidence in the automated installation.

Automatically Setting up Your Architecture-Specific Directories

1. To configure your architecture specific directories create a shell script called `archdir-setup` and put it in your `~/csci3308/bin` directory (recall, this is your architecture-independent `bin` directory).

2. This shell script should be written so that it can be run from any directory. You should either use absolute paths, or change directory so that you know where you are before using relative paths.
3. In this shell script you can assume that the directory `~/csci3308/arch` exists. Add the following commands to your shell script to create the architecture specific subdirectories:

```
#!/bin/tcsh -f
cd ~/csci3308/arch/$ARCH
mkdir bin build include lib man tap
```

4. Make this script executable. Then type `rehash`. This will reset the hashtable the shell uses to optimize finding commands. Now use `which` or `where` to make sure that `archdir-setup` is in your path.
5. Now run the script. You should see a few error messages (up to six) as the script tries to create directories that already exist. If you do not see any error messages, then check that your `$ARCH` variable is defined and then run the script again. These error messages are not very serious, given our purpose for this script. We are merely double checking that these directories exist. If they already exist, that's fine. However, the user should not have to see this type of error message.
6. To avoid these error messages, rewrite your script so that it first checks if a directory exists, and only calls `mkdir` if the directory doesn't exist. To do this you will need to use the `if` statement, and file inquiry operators. You can learn more about file inquiry operators on page 639 of the "Linux Shells by Example" textbook.
7. We are now going to simulate running this script on a different architecture. Redefine your `$ARCH` environment variable (on some accounts, this variable is `$arch`) to have the value 'sun4':
`setenv ARCH sun4` or `setenv arch sun4`
8. Before running the script, verify that you do not have a 'sun4' directory in your `~/csci3308/arch` directory. If you do, remove it with the command:
`yes | rm -r ~/csci3308/arch/sun4`
9. Now, run the `archdir-setup` script again. What happens?
10. While we can assume that the `~/csci3308/arch` directory exists, we can not assume that a particular architecture-specific subdirectory exists. Modify your script to create the architecture-specific subdirectory, if needed.

11. Run your script again to make sure that it works correctly. (It should create the `.../csci3308/arch/sun4` directory, and then create the `bin`, `build`, and other directories beneath it). Run the script a second time to make sure it doesn't produce error messages when the directories already exist.
12. Now, change your `$ARCH` variable back to its correct value:

```
setenv ARCH x86 or setenv arch x86
```
13. Print out your `archdir-setup` script and turn it in with your lab.

Writing the Installation Shell Script

14. You will now write a shell script that installs `gnuchess` automatically. This script will be called `gnuchess-install`, and it should be in your *architecture-independent* `bin` directory. In order to work, your shell script will require that the `gnuchess` distribution has already been downloaded and unpacked into your `src` directory.
15. The first thing your shell script should do is run your `archdir-setup` script. This ensures that all of the directories that it needs exist.
16. Before building `gnuchess` your shell script needs to make a new subdirectory of the architecture-specific `build` directory. Add the command(s) to your shell script to create this directory, but make sure that your script will not print an error message if this directory already exists.
17. The following steps need to be taken to install `gnuchess`. For each step add the necessary command(s) to your `gnuchess-install` shell script. Look back at lab 1 to help you remember the exact commands.
 - (a) Localizing (`configure`)
 - (b) Building (`make`)
 - (c) Installing (`make install`)
18. Now finish up your shell script by making it executable, and making sure of the following things. The shell script should be in your path, and it should work regardless of what directory you are in when you run the script, i.e., you cannot assume that you start in the `build` directory.
19. Test your script starting with a "clean" environment. Change to the directory `~/csci3308/arch/$ARCH` and remove all of its subdirectories. Run your `gnuchess-install` program and check to see that it automatically creates the needed directories, builds `gnuchess`, and installs it in the correct directory.
20. Print out your `gnuchess-install` script and turn it in with the lab.