



In Unix, what startup and termination files do the various shells use?

Although not a comprehensive list, the following should provide you with a basic understanding of what startup and shutdown files the various Unix shells use.

Note:

This information comes from the Unix FAQ, which is posted regularly to the Usenet newsgroups `comp.unix.questions` and `comp.unix.shell`. You can obtain it by FTP from `rtfm.mit.edu` in the `/pub/usenet` directory, and on the web at [Unix FAQ/faq Index](#).

csh

Some versions have systemwide `.cshrc` and `.login` files. Each version puts them in different places.

Startup (in this order):	Upon termination:	Others:
<code>.cshrc</code> (always)	<code>.logout</code> (login shells)	<code>.history</code> (saves history based on "\$savehist")
<code>.login</code> (login shells)		

tcsh

Startup (in this order):	Upon termination:	Others:
<code>/etc/csh.cshrc</code> (always)	<code>.logout</code> (login shells)	<code>.history</code> (saves history based on "\$savehist")
<code>/etc/csh.login</code> (login shells)		<code>.cshdirs</code> (saves directory stack)
<code>.tcshrc</code> (always)		

Startup (in this order):**Upon termination:****Others:**

.cshrc (if no .tcshrc file is present)

.login (login shells)

sh

Startup (in this order):**Upon termination:**

/etc/profile (login shells)

Any command or script specified using the command:

```
trap "command" 0
```

.profile (login shells)

ksh

Startup (in this order):**Upon termination:**

/etc/profile (login shells)

Any command or script specified using the command:

```
trap "command" 0
```

.profile (login shells)

\$ENV (always, if it is set)

bash

Startup (in this order):**Upon termination:****Others:**

/etc/profile (login shells)

.bash_logout (login shells)

.inputrc (readline initialization)

.bash_profile (login shells)

.profile (login if no .bash_profile file is present)

Startup (in this order):**Upon termination:****Others:**

`.bashrc` (interactive non-login shells)

`$ENV` (non-interactive shells)

zsh

Startup (in this order):**Upon termination:**

`.zshenv` (always, unless the `-f` option is specified)

`.zlogout` (login shells)

`.zprofile` (login shells)

`.zshrc` (interactive shells, unless the `-f` option is specified)

`.zlogin` (login shells)

rc

Startup (in this order):

`.rcre` (login shells)

At Indiana University, for personal or departmental Linux or Unix systems support, see At IU, how do I get support for Linux or Unix?

Related documents

Introduction to Unix commands

In Unix, where can I get information on differences between the various shells?

How do I restart my Unix session (re-source my initialization files)?

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