



Bash Scripting Part 5

P. TenHoopen - WMLUG



Providing Options To a Bash Script

You can provide run-time options to a Bash script by “sourcing” a configuration file.

Sourcing is the action by a Bash script of reading in a file. The contents of the sourced file are inserted at the point of the source command.



Sourcing

The source command in Bash is:

```
source filename
```

or

```
. filename
```

The contents of the configuration file need to be in the format that Bash would normally use. For example,

```
# Config file  
OptionA=1  
OptionB=All
```



Creating a default configuration file

If you design your Bash script so that it requires a configuration file to exist and it isn't found, you can have the script create one with default values.

Just test for the existence of the file and if one isn't found, write the default values to the file using the `echo` command.



Putting it all together

Demo



Next Time

How to use Bash to change values of options in a config file.