

Re: problems with .bashrc

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2004-04/1366.html>

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To: fudo <fudo@spamblocked.com>

On Tue, 13 Apr 2004, fudo wrote:

> *I'm new to FreeBSD, and to bash. I'm running FreeBSD 5.0, and added
> bash from the cd during install. There are .profile and .shrc files in
> my home directory; .profile references .shrc with ENV=\$HOME/.shrc;
> export ENV. There are several uncommented alias lines in the .shrc
> file, but none of them work. From what I've read, bash should read
> .profile and .shrc, but just in case, I tried copying them to
> .bash_profile and .bashrc, changing ENV to =\$HOME/.bashrc, and renaming
> the original files, but the aliases still don't work. Aliases are
> formatted: alias ll='ls -laFo'; entering that at the prompt and it
> works fine. Seems like bash isn't reading the rc file. Obviously, I'm
> missing something; any suggestions appreciated. Thanks.*

I think what is happening is the aliases in .shrc are not read directly by bash unless invoked as sh, and the .shrc assigned to ENV is only read for non-login shells; I'm not sure why they wouldn't work when entered in .bash_profile, but the fact that they don't suggests a conflict between the files the commands are entered in and the order in which they are read.

When invoked as bash (not sh) the start-up files that bash reads for a login shell are, in order:

i) /etc/profile

and then the first of any of the following that exists:

ii) ~/.bash_profile OR

iii) ~/.bash_login OR

iv) ~/.profile

Non-login interactive bash shells (when changing or starting new shells during a session) read only ~/.bashrc.

Non-login non-interactive bash shells (ie-when launched from inside a script) check the startup file in \$BASH_ENV, or \$ENV if that doesn't

exist.

An easy way to make sure all three invocations of bash reference the same start-up file is:

i) use .bashrc as your customized startup file

ii) create a .bash_profile containing only:

```
export BASH_ENV=~/.bashrc
if [ -f ~/.bashrc ]; then source ~/.bashrc; fi
```

This way, after reading /etc/profile a login shell will read the first file found, ~/.bash_profile, which in turn reads ~/.bashrc

Non-login interactive shells will read ~/.bashrc as usual

Non-login non-interactive shells will read the ~/.bashrc assigned in \$BASH_ENV.

Cheers,

Viktor

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