

Welcome to comp.unix.shell [Frequent posting]

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This article is a monthly attempt to remind potential posters about what is appropriate for comp.unix.shell. If you would like to make any suggestions about the content of this article, please contact its maintainer at tmatimar@isgtec.com.

Many FAQs, including this one, are available on the archive site rtfm.mit.edu in the directory `pub/usenet/news.answers`.

The name under which a FAQ is archived appears in the "Archive-Name:" line at the top of the article. This FAQ is archived as "unix-faq/shell/intro".

Companion articles include the answers to some Frequently Asked Questions. You may save yourself a lot of time by reading those articles before posting a question to the net.

If you have not already read the overall Usenet introductory material posted to "news.announce.newusers", please do. Much of this article overlaps with the common sense guidelines posted there.

Should I Post My Shell Question to the Net?

Often the answer is "No, you can get an answer a lot faster without posting a question." Before you post, you should try –

- o Reading the manual for your system. Some day you may encounter the phrase "RTFM", which stands for "Read the Fine Manual" (except 'F' doesn't really stand for "Fine"). If you ask someone a question and they tell you to RTFM, it's an indication that you haven't done your homework. For instance, if you are trying to make a script run under `csh` instead of `sh`, check the man page for "`csh`". It might tell you what you need to know.

When people use terminology like "read(2)", they are referring to the "read" man page in section 2 of the manual (which you

would see by using "man 2 read").

- o Finding a knowledgeable user at your site. Many sites have at least a few shell experts who will be happy to help you figure out how to specify that a script should be run by csh. Many lar