

Re: variable with "-" sign

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.shell/2005-04/0116.html>

From: Keith Thompson (kst-u_at_mib.org)

Date: 04/03/05

Date: Sun, 03 Apr 2005 21:43:07 GMT

c0ldbyte <c0ldbyte@comp.unix.shell> writes:

[...]

> *Standardized scripting that is not something that would pass any kind of*
> *quiz with a professor. I do believe we have enough numbers, letters, and*
> *underscores to use and come up with some better descriptive variables*
> *than starting to use ones with hyphens. For those who don't know what a*
> *hyphen is it's the little key on your keyboard that looks like "-" that.*
> *Now on to the real problem. Are you sure that the variable in question*
> *isn't really \$UNIX-\$VERS instead of \$UNIX-VERS and that possibly it's just*
> *a mistype in the file or something. Even if you should rewrite it if*
> *there is variables being used that contain a hyphen in the actual variable*
> *name and then create a patch and write the stupid author and send the*
> *patch to him to make it easy on his life to fix the problem as hand*
> *because he wrote a non POSIX conforming script.*

There's no reason to assume that the offending application is a script. If it's a C program, for example, the way to read an environment variable is the same regardless of what characters the name contains: `getenv("UNIX-VERS")` vs. `getenv("UNIX_VERS")`

--

Keith Thompson (The_Other_Keith) kst-u@mib.org <<http://www.ghoti.net/~kst>>
San Diego Supercomputer Center <*> <<http://users.sdsc.edu/~kst>>
We must do something. This is something. Therefore, we must do this.