

Re: combining the result of processing various commands and setting it in a variable

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.shell/2005-11/1011.html>

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Date: 11/19/05

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2005-11-19, 05:08(-08), onetitfemme:

```
> _VER="Linux version";
[...]
> _CHKVER=$(dmesg | grep -i "${_VER}");
[...]
> _CHCKVER=`dmesg | grep -i "$_VER";
[...]
> _CHCKVER=$(dmesg | grep -iF -- "$_VER");
> echo ${_CHKVER};
[...]
> Now, which of the working versions of the script is the most portable
> one?
>
> The last one as given by Stéphane?
>
> I need for the script to hopefully work on any Unix and Linux
> versions. Right now I am testing it with Linux/Debian/Knoppix
[...]
```

For that particular value of `$_VER` all the 3 ones are equivalent. For any value of `$_VER`, only the 3rd one is correct.

All those are POSIX conformant. Only the 2nd will work with the Bourne shell (which is an old shell you sometimes find on very old systems or on Solaris as `/bin/sh`). You may find some old greps that don't recognise `-F`.

As long as `$_VER` doesn't contain any `.`, `*`, `[`, `^`, or `$` characters and don't start with a `"-`", you can stick with the second solution.

Otherwise, instead of:

```
_VER='- $Version: 1.2$'
```

for instance, you'll have to write it:

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```
_VER='[-] \ $Version: 1\2\ $'  
_CHCKVER=`dmesg | grep -i "$_VER"`;
```

You're more likely to have compatibility issues with dmesg, than with the syntax of the 3rd line, though.

If you want the OS version, note: `uname -rs`

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Stéphane