IT 1100 Introduction to Operating Systems
Chapter 13 Customizing the Prompt

Displaying the Prompt

- `echo $PS1`

Setting the Prompt from Escape Codes

A list of common escape codes is found on page 159 of the text, table 13-1

Here are some common ones used:

- `\d` displays current date
- `\h` displays the hostname
- `\u` displays the username
- `\w` displays the current working directory

Backing up the current prompt

We create a new variable, then copy the PS1 variable to it

```
ps1_old="$PS1"
```

Creating a new prompt

```
PS1=\u@\h:\w\$
```

This will make more sense after you have read the chapter, but to change your PS1 prompt using an alias contains no spaces outside of the quotes and requires alternating quotation marks:

```
alias prompt1="PS1='\u@\h:\w\$'"
```

You can even nest a command inside the prompt

```
alias prompt2="PS1='$(date) \u@\h:\w\$'"
```

Adding Color to Prompts

Refer to Table 13-2 for color schemes and their associated escape codes.

For example, `\033[0;30m` is black

```
\033[0;30m
```

is blue

```
\033[0;34m
```

Shortcut: instead of using `\033` we can simply use `\e`

As an example, a simple prompt like:

```
PS1='\[\033[1;32m\]\[\u@\h \W\]\$\[\033[0m\] '
```

is the same as

```
PS1='\[\e[1;32m\]\[\u@\h \W\]\$\[\e[0m\] '
```

Can be broken down into these elements:

```
\[\e[1;32m\] - an opening square bracket printed in green (1;32m)
```
Textbook Time

- WES-13 Customizing the Prompt