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Tutorials for "Unix for Advanced Users"
Exercise sheet 8

Exercise 8.1:
The `exec` command in `sh` or `bash` has two main applications: First, it can be used to replace the current shell by another program, or in other words, to start a new program without creating a child process. What else can `exec` be used for?

Exercise 8.2:
What happens (in the shell and in `rm`) when you enter the following commands?

(a) `rm \-r`
(b) `rm \\-r`
(c) `rm \\\-r`
(d) `rm '\-r'`
(e) `rm ./-r`
(f) `rm './-r'`
(g) `rm './\-r'`

Exercise 8.3:
Explain the difference between the following commands:

(a) `A=/bin/c*; qecho $A`
(b) `A=/bin/c*; qecho "$A"`
(c) `set /bin/c*; qecho "$@"`
(d) `set /bin/c*; A="$@"; qecho "$A"`

Exercise 8.4:
Suppose that the variable `B` contains the name of another variable, say `XYZ`. You want to call the command `cmd` with two arguments: the value of the variable `A` and the value of the variable whose name is contained in `B`. You can do this in the following ways:

(a) `eval cmd "$A" '"$'"$B"'"'`
(b) `eval cmd "'$A'" '"$'"$B"'"'`
(c) `eval cmd '"$A"' '"$'"$B"'"'`

Which of these alternatives is the best one, and why?