

COMP421

Unix Environment for Programmers

Lecture 06: Shell scripts continues

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Shell substitution:

- Before executing any command the shell first performs “substitution”.
- Substitution can be very confusing.

Variables are substituted

The presence of a string that begins with \$ is considered a variable and the contents of the variable are substituted for the name.

This is confusing because somethings won't work as expected.

```
$myphrase="hello there"  
grep $myphrase targetfile
```

actual yields... `grep hello there targetfile` which will search for "hello" in the two files `there` and `targetfile`.

`grep "$myphrase" targetfile` would fix this problem