

bash case statements

Sometimes we may wish to take different paths based upon a variable matching a series of patterns. We could use a series of **if** and **elif** statements but that would soon grow to be unwieldily. Fortunately there is a case statement which can make things cleaner. It's a little hard to explain so here are some examples to illustrate:

```
case <variable> in
<pattern 1>)
    <commands>
    ;;
<pattern 2>)
    <other commands>
    ;;
esac
```

Example 1)

```
#!/bin/bash
# case example
case $1 in
    start)
        echo starting
        ;;
    stop)
        echo stoping
        ;;
    restart)
        echo restarting
        ;;
    *)
        echo don\'t know
        ;;
esac
```

Example 2) Regular Expression

```
#!/bin/bash
# Print a message about disk useage.
space_free=$( df -h | awk '{ print $5 }' | sort -n | tail -n 1 | sed 's/%//' )
case $space_free in
    [1-5]*)
        echo Plenty of disk space available
        ;;
    [6-7]*)
        echo There could be a problem in the near future
        ;;
    8*)
        echo Maybe we should look at clearing out old files
        ;;
    9*)
        echo We could have a serious problem on our hands soon
        ;;
    *)
        echo Something is not quite right here
        ;;
esac
```