bash: Find Out the Version of Your Unix Shell

bash (Bourne Again SHell) comes with pretty much every Unix-like OS these days. If you ever wonder what exact version of **bash** shell you have on your system, here's how you find out: just use the –version parameter in the command line.

Using /bin/bash to tell its version

On RedHat Linux, this is how it might look:

```
bash-2.05b$ /bin/bash --version
GNU bash, version 2.05b.0(1)-release (i386-redhat-linux-gnu)
Copyright (C) 2002 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
```

On Solaris 10 (one of the latest OpenSolaris builds, actually), it's a very similar output as well:

```
-bash-3.2$ /bin/bash --version
GNU bash, version 3.2.25(1)-release (i386-pc-solaris2.11)
Copyright (C) 2005 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
```

If you don't know the location of bash binary

The first and most obvious thing is to use which command to confirm the possible location of your bash binary.

On Linux:

```
 bash-2.05b$ which bash
/bin/bash
```

In Solaris:

```
-bash-3.2$ which bash
/usr/bin/bash
```

As you can see, this command returns you the full path to a

binary, bash in our case. Once you know the full binary name, run it like explained in the first part of this post to confirm the version. Bear in mind that **which** command does not always return a result.

If this didn’t work, a more sophisticated way to confirm the version of bash on your RedHat Linux system is to use rpm:

```
bash-2.05b$ rpm -qa | grep bash
bash-2.05b-41.4
```

This commands queries the RPM database of your RedHat Linux and confirms which version of the bash RPM package is installed, which naturally matches the version of the bash itself.