

What's the Difference Between .bashrc, .profile, .bash_profile, ...?

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[`~/.bash_profile`] is loaded when you login. It is read only once.

[`~/.bashrc`] is loaded everytime you start a shell (> for example: starting a terminal), but is not loaded when you login the first time.

Note: Some terminals (such as [gnome-terminal](#)) have option to “run command as login shell”, meaning, if on, it'll load [`~/.bash_profile`] (or [`~/.profile`]) first, before running [`~/.bashrc`].

Note: on Mac OS X, the Terminal app starts as a login shell, so it runs `~/.bash_profile`. Different unixes have different setup.

Here's a excerpt from `man bash`:

```
/etc/profile
    The systemwide initialization file, executed for login
    shells
~/.bash_profile
    The personal initialization file, executed for login
    shells
~/.bashrc
    The individual per-interactive-shell startup file
~/.bash_logout
    The individual login shell cleanup file, executed when
    a login shell exits
~/.inputrc
    Individual readline initialization file
```


There's also {`.login`, `.profile`, ...}. These are basically legacy that bash may also read.

- The [`.login`] is legacy login init file for the original shell, the [Bourne shell](#) “sh”. [BASH](#) (Bourne-Again SHell) is a mostly compatible extended version. On many unix systems, [`/bin/sh`] is hardlinked to [`/bin/bash`]. In Ubuntu Linux, 2006, [`/bin/sh`] is a sym link to [`/bin/dash`]. [dash](#) is new. “dash” is smaller and faster than bash, for running system startup scripts.
- The [`.profile`] is legacy shell init file for Bourne shell “sh”.
- The [`.csh`] is init file for “csh” [C shell](#). (basically, shell with C syntax.)
- The [`.tcshrc`] is init file for “tcsh” [tcsh](#). (basically, improved csh)

See also:

- [Bash Manual in Chapters; Using Emacs for Reading Info; Info Keys](#)
- [Linux: Most Frequently Used Shell Commands](#)
- [Linux: Most Important Keybinding for {Bash, Man, Terminal}](#)
- [Linux: Set Bash Shell Prompt to Color](#)
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So, put more stuff in .bash_profile not .bashrc will speedup terminal startup?

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yes.

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