UNIX / LINUX - SHELL BOOLEAN OPERATORS EXAMPLE

Advertisements

The following Boolean operators are supported by the Bourne Shell.

Assume variable **a** holds 10 and variable **b** holds 20 then −

Operator	Description	Example
!	This is logical negation. This inverts a true condition into false and vice versa.	[! false] is true.
-o	This is logical **OR**. If one of the operands is true, then the condition becomes true.	[$a -lt 20 -o $b -gt 100] is true.
-a	This is logical **AND**. If both the operands are true, then the condition becomes true otherwise false.	[$a -lt 20 -a $b -gt 100] is false.

Example

Here is an example which uses all the Boolean operators −

Live Demo

```sh
#!/bin/sh

a=10
b=20

if [ $a != $b ]
then
   echo "$a != $b : a is not equal to b"
else
   echo "$a != $b: a is equal to b"
fi

if [ $a -lt 100 -a $b -gt 15 ]
then
   echo "$a -lt 100 -a $b -gt 15 : returns true"
else
   echo "$a -lt 100 -a $b -gt 15 : returns false"
fi

if [ $a -lt 100 -o $b -gt 100 ]
then
   echo "$a -lt 100 -o $b -gt 100 : returns true"
else
   echo "$a -lt 100 -o $b -gt 100 : returns false"
fi

if [ $a -lt 5 -o $b -gt 100 ]
then
   echo "$a -lt 100 -o $b -gt 100 : returns true"
else
   echo "$a -lt 100 -o $b -gt 100 : returns false"
fi
```

The above script will generate the following result −

```
10 != 20 : a is not equal to b
10 -lt 100 -a 20 -gt 15 : returns true
10 -lt 100 -o 20 -gt 100 : returns true
10 -lt 5 -o 20 -gt 100 : returns false
```

The following points need to be considered while using the operators −

- There must be spaces between the operators and the expressions. For example, 2+2 is not correct; it should be written as 2 + 2.

- **if...then...else...fi** statement is a decision-making statement which has been explained in the next chapter.