

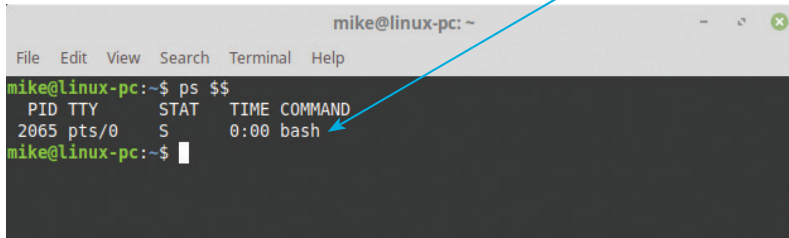
Discovering the Shell

When you open a new Terminal window on a Linux operating system, a command prompt appears indicating that a shell process has been started for you automatically. This shell will typically be the Bash shell facility.

The name of the shell in use can be seen in information about the current Terminal process by issuing a **ps \$\$** command. The output from this command should confirm Bash as the current shell under its “COMMAND” heading. If another shell is listed you can switch to the Bash shell simply by issuing a **bash** command if it is available. In the event that the Bash program is not already available it must be installed by you or the system administrator.

Once you have confirmed that Bash is the current shell you can see its version information by issuing a **bash --version** command:

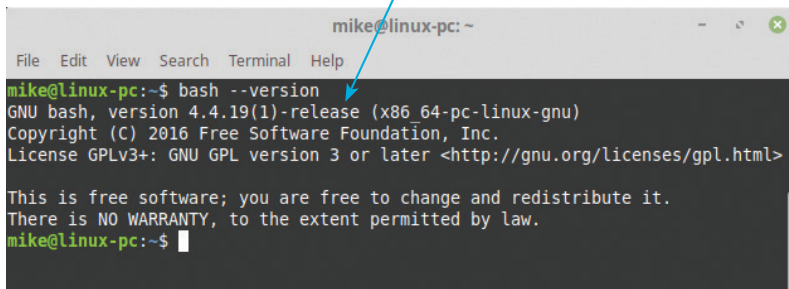
- 1 Launch a Terminal window, then at the prompt exactly type **ps \$\$** and hit **Return** to discover the current shell



```
mike@linux-pc: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
mike@linux-pc:~$ ps $$
  PID TTY          STAT       TIME COMMAND
 2065 pts/0    S           0:00 bash
mike@linux-pc:~$
```

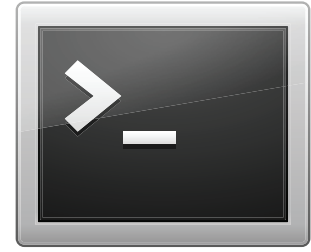
- 2 Next, type a **clear** command and hit **Return** (or press **Ctrl + L** keys) to clear the Terminal window to a prompt

- 3 Now, exactly type **bash --version** then hit **Return** to discover the current Bash version



```
mike@linux-pc: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
mike@linux-pc:~$ bash --version
GNU bash, version 4.4.19(1)-release (x86_64-pc-linux-gnu)
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License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>

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There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
mike@linux-pc:~$
```



Linux Terminal



Bash is case-sensitive so the commands **MUST** be capitalized exactly as listed. For example, the **ps** command must use only lowercase letters.