37 - Environment Variables

Where variables are set:
Global: `/etc/profile`
                     `/etc/profile.local`

Individual: `~/.profile`
                     `~/.bashrc`
                     `~/.alias`

Shell Variables

The shell loads its local variables from the files above and sets them as Environment: They are then exported when shell runs a child program. A local variable needs to be set to be exported to become an environment variable with the command:
```
export variablename or
export variablename=value
```

- `echo VARIABLE`	Displays the value of the variable
- `printenv`	List of all exported Variables
- `env`	List of all exported Variables
- `export -p [VARIABLE]`	List of all exported Variables
- `declare -x VARIABLE=[=value]`	Export a Variable [with value]
- `export VARIABLE[=value]`	Export a Variable [with value]
- `VARIABLE[=value ]`	Set the value of a variable
- `unset VARIABLE`	Delete the variable

Some used environment variables:
```
PATH, DISPLAY, HOME, HOSTNAME, EDITOR
SHELL, WINDOWMANAGER, PRINTER, USER, PAGER
MANPATH, PS1, TERM, LANG
```

Note from Man page:
The environment inherited by any executed command consists of the <u>shell's initial environment</u>, whose values may be modified in the shell, less any pairs removed by the `unset` command, plus any additions via the `export` and `declare -x` commands.

Exercise: editing `~/.bashrc` with `less` and `vi`
```
xterm
less ~/.bashrc ;
      v
            add export EDITOR=/usr/X11R6/bin/nedit
      <Esc>
      : wq
q
```

<u>Second time</u>:
(exit `xterm` first)
```
xterm
less ~/.bashrc ;
      v       and now the nedit is used as the editor
```