

How to display or change a welcome message in Linux terminal

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Question: I want to show a custom welcome message inside Linux terminal whenever I open a new terminal window. How can I do that?

It is extremely easy to add a plain-text welcome message in Linux terminal. All you have to do is to include `echo` command in your shell startup file.

For example, if you are using `bash`, you can edit `~/.bashrc` script, and add `echo` command at the beginning of the script as follows.

```
$ vi ~/.bashrc
```

```
# ~/.bashrc: executed by bash(1) for non-login shells. # see /usr/share/doc/  
bash/examples/startup-files (in the package bash-  
doc) # for examples    echo "This is my welcome message" . . .
```

At this point, whenever you open a new terminal window, the message will appear inside the terminal window.

A custom welcome message can be used to spice up your terminal window. For example, here is a simple tip that makes a random quote appear inside your Linux terminal.

We use a combination of two command-line tools: `fortune` and `cowsay`. The former tool prints out a random interesting adage, and the latter utility displays (literally) a speaking cow in terminal window.

First, install `fortune` and `cowsay` on Linux.

On Debian, Ubuntu or Linux Mint:

```
$ sudo apt-get install fortune cowsay
```

On Fedora, CentOS or RHEL:

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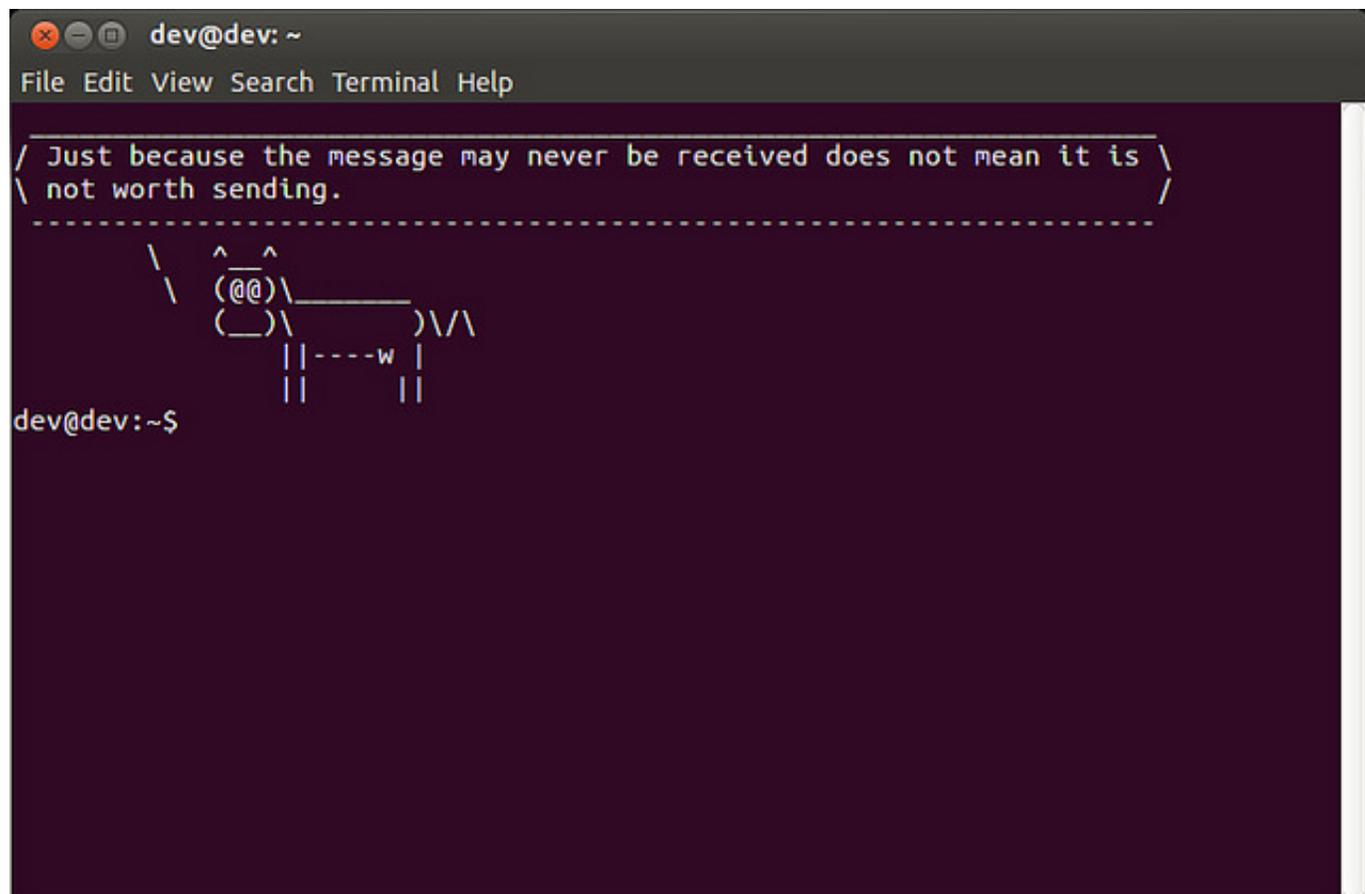
```
$ sudo yum install fortune cowsay
```

Then add the following line at the beginning of ~/.bashrc.

```
$ vi ~/.bashrc
```

```
# ~/.bashrc: executed by bash(1) for non-login shells. # see /usr/share/doc/  
bash/examples/startup-files (in the package bash-  
doc) # for examples    fortune | cowsay -pn . . .
```

That's it. Now go ahead and open a new terminal window. You will see something like this in your terminal window.



```
dev@dev: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
/ Just because the message may never be received does not mean it is \  
\ not worth sending. \  
-----  
 \  
  ^ ^  
  @@ \  
  ( ) \  
  | |-----w | \  
  | |         | \  
dev@dev: ~$
```