



Tech Info Library

A/UX: Shell Argument Limit

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Article Change History

08/27/92 - REVIEWED
o For technical accuracy.

TOPIC -----

Some users have tried unsuccessfully to pass large command-line arguments.

DISCUSSION -----

The problem with the large command line is a shell problem; the shell can't work with the large command line parameters. Passing a large command line to "awk" or to other utilities creates problems. For example, If you try to "echo" a lot of characters (as shown below), it won't work.

```
1  echo '  
2  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
3  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
4  :::  
5  ' a lot more X's '  
6  :::  
7  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
8  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
9  '
```

The Korn shell has the same problem, only it allows a much larger number of characters. The Korn shell doesn't dump a core, while "csh" and "sh" do. It seems that the A/UX shells (Bourne, Csh, or Korn) have limitations on the size of their arguments.

The same echo command is successful on a BSD UNIX system.
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Keywords: <None>

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