

Hints for the vacuum shell script

in no particular order

1. To build the strings, make `goleft[]` and `goright[]` arrays...

```
... etc ...
goright[0]="\==<"      goleft[77]=" >==/"
goright[1]=" \==<"    goleft[78]=" >==/"
goright[2]="  \==<"   goleft[79]=">==/"
... etc ...
```

2. To build the `goright/goleft` arrays' contents, use while loops around a statement like:

```
goright[${cnt}]=" ${goright[${prvcnt}]}"
```

3. To slow down the display, you'll need to determine what your system supports. Here are three possibilities:

<code>usleep 10000</code>	<code>msleep 10</code>	<code>sleep .01</code>
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Choose whichever works in your while loops.

4. To clear a line and reset the cursor to the leftmost position, try something like:

```
echo "<esc>K${goright[${cnt}]}<esc>A"
```

The `<esc>` character just before `[K` and before `[A` is an *escape* character. One may obtain it in vim by typing `ctrl-v` and then pressing the escape key.

Unfortunately, Ubuntu's default terminal may not support ANSI escape sequences. If you have odd-looking Unicode character boxes showing up, please get `xterm` and use that.

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install xterm
```

Once installed, use `xterm&` to get a terminal using `xterm`.

5. Don't forget to use integer variables. With `ksh`, you wouldn't need the `integer` alias, but with `bash` you will:

```
alias integer='typeset -i'
integer line
maxline=${1:-25}
line=0
while (( line < maxline )); do
    ...whatever...
    line=line+1
done
```

6. When assigning, *don't* put spaces around the equals symbol.
7. To get arrays, use typeset:

```
typeset goright
typeset goleft
```

8. One way to debug is to modify the first line:

```
#!/bin/bash -x
```

9. To insert escape characters (and, for that matter, other control characters) using the vi(m) editor, type `ctrl-v` then the control character you want inserted, while in insert mode.
10. For more information on ANSI escape sequences, see <http://ascii-table.com/ansi-escape-sequences.php>
With them, you may control cursor positioning and color.