Installing Bash

The Bash installation is usually simple, but it clearly depends on operating system.

macOS Bash is already installed on macOS by default, but the system version is typically old (often `3.2`). To install a recent version you can use a package manager such as Homebrew (`brew install bash`) or MacPorts (`sudo port install bash`). Note that this installs a newer Bash alongside the system one; it does not automatically replace your default shell. After installation, verify where the new Bash binary is located, for example with `which bash`. To use the newly installed version as your default shell, you must:

1. add its full path (e.g. `/opt/homebrew/bin/bash`) to `/etc/shells` and
2. change your login shell with `chsh -s /full/path/to/new/bash` (with the right path).

Afterwards, in a new terminal, running `echo ${SHELL}` should display the path to the installed Bash.

Linux Bash is almost always already installed and often is the default shell. If needed, it can be installed or upgraded via the package manager, for example running `sudo apt install bash`. On most modern distributions the packaged version is already sufficiently recent. Building Bash from source is only necessary in special cases (e.g. restricted systems or specific version requirements). If you are in one of such cases, then you need to build Bash from source and this can be done in the standard Linux way, see e.g. here, after having download the source code.

Windows The recommended solution is to use the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL). On recent versions of Windows 10/11, WSL can typically be installed by running `wsl --install`. The default Ubuntu distribution provided by WSL uses Bash as its default shell, and no additional installation is usually required.