

## Extending DCL with Command Files

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2:30 pm – 3:30 pm  
Amherst**

**2015 OpenVMS Bootcamp  
Radisson Tara  
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## Agenda –

- **DCL command sequences are error prone**
- **What looks like a duck is.**
- **Seamlessness**
- **Parameters/Qualifiers**
- **Defaulting and Checking**

## Handtyping is a source of error –

- **typos**
- **skipped steps**
- **inconsistent choices**

## Solution: Parameterized Scripts –

- **minimize operator entries**
- **ensure consistency**
- **eliminate skipped steps**

## Error Containment –

- **no unexpected aborts**
- **consider SET NOCONTROL=Y**
- **maintain current default**

## Parameters/Qualifiers –

- **debugging/fault isolation**
- **use F\$ELEMENT on / and =**
- **permit qualifier negation**

## Checking –

- **use F\$SEARCH to check if file exists**
- **check for reasonableness**
- **do not use unchecked parameters**

## Defaulting –

- **F\$PARSE iteratively**
- **allows XYZ.XXX to generate XYZ.LIS**
- **see [http://www.rlgsc.com/demonstrations/openvms-f\\$parse-defaulting.html](http://www.rlgsc.com/demonstrations/openvms-f$parse-defaulting.html)**
- **remember: Source may not be in present directory**



## Use Computed GOTO with guard –

- **values of qualifiers**
- **check value against list of valid values**
- **Examples: [http://www.rlgsc.com/demonstrations/dcl\\_goto.html](http://www.rlgsc.com/demonstrations/dcl_goto.html)**

## Exit Status –

- **Correct exit status is key to nesting**
- **Looks like a duck, it is a duck**
- **consider which error code makes sense**
- **Example: <http://www.rlgsc.com/demonstrations/exitstatus.html>**

## Keep your context neat –

- **do not change default directory**
- **do not permit aborts**
- **delete temporary files you create**
- **clean up extra logical names**
- **ASSIGN/USER\_MODE**

# Questions?

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**Session Notes & Materials:**

**<http://www.rlgsc.com/openvms-bootcamp/2015/index.html>**