# Bash Shell Interface for I2C

On the kernel level, I2C communication is handled by the `i2c-dev` kernel driver. On the lowest level, the bus is seen as a file and using a file descriptor one can read from it or write to it. The shell interface is a set of compiled programs that wrap this functionality for specific uses at a higher level. The intended use is interactive debugging to see if something works or not. For programmatic use it's better to take a look at the C API for C/C++ and the smbus2 library for Python.

These programs are part of the `i2c-tools` package that usually comes preinstalled in most Linux distributions.

## i2cdetect

1

## i2cdump

2

## i2cget

3

## i2cset

4

## i2ctransfer

5

From:
https://wiki.plakatouras.com/ - **Personal Wiki**

Permanent link:
**https://wiki.plakatouras.com/doku.php?id=documentation:protocols:i2c:i2c-tools_shell&rev=1791465414**

Last update: **2026/10/08 13:16**