



HowTo Display Text Files In a Shell Script

May 2, 2007 in [BASH Shell](#), [Linux](#), [UNIX](#) last updated November 23, 2013

I am a new Unix user and learning bash shell scripting. How do I display a text file stored in /tmp directory in a shell script?

There are many ways to display a text file in a shell script. You can simply use the [cat command](#) and display back output on screen.

Another option is to read a text file line by line and display back the output. In some cases you may need to store output to a variable and later display back on screen.



Task: Display output using the cat command

Following sample script displays contents of a file called /tmp/input.txt:

```
#!/bin/bash
FILE="/tmp/input.txt"
echo "*** File - $FILE contents ***"
cat $FILE
```

Task: Store a file output in a variable

Following sample script displays nameserver IPs:

```
#!/bin/bash
FILE="/etc/resolv.conf"
OUT=$(awk '{ print $2 }' $FILE)
echo "*** Nameserver IP ***"
for ip in $OUT
do
    echo $ip
done
```

Task: Read a text file line-by-line

See our previous tutorial for more information:

1. [Linux/ UNIX: Read a File Line By Line](#)
2. [Linux / Unix AWK: Read a Text File](#)
3. [HowTo: Bash For While Loop Through File Contents Script](#)
4. [Ksh Read a File Line By Line \(UNIX Scripting \)](#)

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 6 comment

shekar November 1, 2007 at 12:30 pm

2nd option is good. If file is large, one can modify the script a bit to serve the purpose.

Palash Khan R. December 19, 2007 at 9:25 pm

How to display certain part of a file? For example, I have a file myFile.Java and I would like to display the contents between lines 30-40. How to do that in linux? with cat?

Thanks,

mahesh October 16, 2013 at 1:22 pm

I have 1 more Que.

i want a shell script for identify mentioned string is file or directory if its a directory then display the contests of the same and if this is file show the content of file

NO CAT August 5, 2014 at 8:25 pm

cat \$FILE

echo "\$(<\$FILE)"

tee <\$FILE

Sindhu May 18, 2016 at 5:25 am

Sir,

I am a beginner in Linux /Unix and I want answer to the following question.

Q. Write a shell script in Linux /Unix that accepts a text file as input and prints the number

of words in the file which have at least one vowel as output.

Sindhu May 18, 2016 at 5:28 am

Sir,

Please give me answer as soon as possible.

Thanks

Comments are closed.

Tagged as: [cat command](#), [Easy](#)



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