**[Prompt for user input In PowerShell](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8184167/prompt-for-user-input-in-powershell)**

[](http://engine.adzerk.net/r?e=eyJhdiI6NDE0LCJhdCI6NCwiY20iOjg0NywiY2giOjExNzgsImNyIjo1MDk0LCJkaSI6IjU2YmUyM2NlMGVhNDRlNGM4OTI5NTRlNmQxNTM0ZDgzIiwiZG0iOjEsImZjIjoxMDEzOSwiZmwiOjI0NDQsImlwIjoiMjAzLjIwNi4xNjQuMTcwIiwia3ciOiJwb3dlcnNoZWxsIiwibnciOjIyLCJwYyI6MCwicHIiOjE1NjgsInJ0IjoxLCJyZiI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS5hdS91cmw_&s=v-aQIgMuTv5j5FXskKc2eFUcgao)

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| up vote51down vote[favorite](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8184167/prompt-for-user-input-in-powershell)  **16** | I want to prompt the user for a series of inputs, including a password and a filename.  I have an example of using host.ui.prompt, which seems sensible, but I can't understand the return.  Is there a better way to get user input in PowerShell?  [powershell](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/powershell)   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | [share](http://stackoverflow.com/q/8184167)|[improve this question](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/8184167/edit) | [edited Nov 13 '13 at 19:28](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/8184167/revisions)  [[http://i.stack.imgur.com/rrdlO.jpg?s=32&g=1](http://stackoverflow.com/users/23199/p-campbell)](http://stackoverflow.com/users/23199/p-campbell)  [p.campbell](http://stackoverflow.com/users/23199/p-campbell) **42.6k**34132221 | asked Nov 18 '11 at 14:41  [[https://www.gravatar.com/avatar/886f40e489f0dca0a9dbd03674919bf6?s=32&d=identicon&r=PG](http://stackoverflow.com/users/7211/aj)](http://stackoverflow.com/users/7211/aj)  [AJ.](http://stackoverflow.com/users/7211/aj) **4,941**93458 | |
|  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 |  | | give a look here: [poshcode.org/608](http://poshcode.org/608) –  [CB.](http://stackoverflow.com/users/520612/cb) [Nov 18 '11 at 15:08](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8184167/prompt-for-user-input-in-powershell#comment10054449_8184167) |   add comment |

**4 Answers 4**

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| up vote78down voteaccepted | Read-Host is a simple option for getting string input from a user.  $name = Read-Host 'What is your username?'  To hide passwords you can use:  $pass = Read-Host 'What is your password?' -AsSecureString  To convert the password to plain text:  [Runtime.InteropServices.Marshal]::PtrToStringAuto(  [Runtime.InteropServices.Marshal]::SecureStringToBSTR($pass))  **Edit:** As for the type returned by $host.UI.Prompt(), if you run the code at the link posted in @Christian's comment, you can find out the return type by piping it to Get-Member (ex. $results|gm). The result is a Dictionary where the key is the name of a FieldDescription object used in the prompt. To access the result for the first prompt in the linked example you would type: $results['String Field']  **Edit 2:** To access information without invoking a method leave the parentheses off.  PS> $Host.UI.Prompt  MemberType : Method  OverloadDefinitions : {System.Collections.Generic.Dictionary[string,psobject] Pr  ompt(string caption, string message, System.Collections.Ob  jectModel.Collection[System.Management.Automation.Host.Fie  ldDescription] descriptions)}  TypeNameOfValue : System.Management.Automation.PSMethod  Value : System.Collections.Generic.Dictionary[string,psobject] Pro  mpt(string caption, string message, System.Collections.Obj  ectModel.Collection[System.Management.Automation.Host.Fiel  dDescription] descriptions)  Name : Prompt  IsInstance : True  $Host.UI.Prompt.OverloadDefinitions will give you the definition(s) of the method. Each definition displays as <Return Type> <Method Name>(<Parameters>)   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | [share](http://stackoverflow.com/a/8184861)|[improve this answer](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/8184861/edit) | [edited Nov 23 '11 at 14:10](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/8184861/revisions) | answered Nov 18 '11 at 15:35  [[https://www.gravatar.com/avatar/3a277016d0442d9381137a6a915fc5bb?s=32&d=identicon&r=PG](http://stackoverflow.com/users/291709/rynant)](http://stackoverflow.com/users/291709/rynant)  [Rynant](http://stackoverflow.com/users/291709/rynant) **6,360**11836 | |
|  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | Thanks, @Rynant. Accepted answer for being the only one who actually answered my main question! ;) All the other information is really helpful too, especially as I'm still groping my way in PS. –  [AJ.](http://stackoverflow.com/users/7211/aj" \o "4941 reputation) [Nov 23 '11 at 12:38](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8184167/prompt-for-user-input-in-powershell#comment10139098_8184861) | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | No problem, @AJ. Another way to get information about a method is to leave off the parentheses. I'll add an example to my answer. –  [Rynant](http://stackoverflow.com/users/291709/rynant) [Nov 23 '11 at 14:09](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8184167/prompt-for-user-input-in-powershell#comment10141019_8184861) |   add comment |

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| up vote28down vote | | Using parameter binding is definately the way to go here. Not only is it very quick to write (Just add [Parameter(Mandatory=$true)] in above your mandatory parameters), but it's also the only option that you won't hate yourself for later.  More below:  [Console]::ReadLine is explicitly forbidden by the FxCop rules for PowerShell. Why? Because it only works in PowerShell.exe, not PowerShell ISE, PowerGUI, etc.  Read-Host is, quite simply, bad form. Read-Host oncontrollably stops the script and prompts the user, which means that you can never have another script that includes the script that uses Read-Host.  What you're trying to do is ask for parameters.  You should use the [Parameter(Mandatory=$true)] attribute, and correct typing, to ask for the parameters.  If you use this on a [SecureString], it will prompt for a password field. If you use this on a Credential type ([Management.Automation.PSCredential]), the credentials dialog will be popped up if the parameter isn't there. A string will just become a plain old text box. If you add a HelpMessage to the parameter attribute (i.e. [Parameter(Mandatory=$true,HelpMessage='New User Credentials')]) then it will become some helper text for the prompt.  Hope this Helps   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | [share](http://stackoverflow.com/a/8236524)|[improve this answer](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/8236524/edit) | [edited Mar 28 at 15:43](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/8236524/revisions)  [[https://www.gravatar.com/avatar/7958b9b76bf1cd7d80ac5aa7fcfb94ac?s=32&d=identicon&r=PG](http://stackoverflow.com/users/1046057/darkajax-iram-aguirre)](http://stackoverflow.com/users/1046057/darkajax-iram-aguirre)  [darkajax - Iram Aguirre](http://stackoverflow.com/users/1046057/darkajax-iram-aguirre) **8,179**42041 | answered Nov 23 '11 at 2:11  [[http://i.stack.imgur.com/REEiy.png?s=32&g=1](http://stackoverflow.com/users/221631/start-automating)](http://stackoverflow.com/users/221631/start-automating)  [Start-Automating](http://stackoverflow.com/users/221631/start-automating) **3,933**1026 | |
|  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | Definitely useful. Many thanks. I suspected as much, but appreciate having it spelled out. –  [AJ.](http://stackoverflow.com/users/7211/aj" \o "4941 reputation) [Nov 23 '11 at 12:38](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8184167/prompt-for-user-input-in-powershell#comment10139114_8236524) | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | This is the most flexible and user-friendly solution, but I almost ignored your advice because there were no clear code examples like in [Rynant's](http://stackoverflow.com/a/8184861/111424) answer. Can you provide some nicely formatted examples? –  [Iain Elder](http://stackoverflow.com/users/111424/iain-elder) [Oct 22 '13 at 15:31](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8184167/prompt-for-user-input-in-powershell#comment28961709_8236524) |   add comment |
| up vote3down vote | Place this at the top of your script. It will cause the script to prompt the user for a password. The resulting password can then be used elsewhere in your script via ***$pw***.  Param(  [Parameter(Mandatory=$true, Position=0, HelpMessage="Password?")]  [SecureString]$password  )  $pw = [Runtime.InteropServices.Marshal]::PtrToStringAuto([Runtime.InteropServices.Marshal]::SecureStringToBSTR($password))  write-host $pw  Don't forget to remove the last line, ***write-host $pw***. It's there solely for debugging.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | [share](http://stackoverflow.com/a/21804402)|[improve this answer](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/21804402/edit) | answered Feb 15 at 22:18  [[http://i.stack.imgur.com/aT97j.jpg?s=32&g=1](http://stackoverflow.com/users/2334160/user2334160)](http://stackoverflow.com/users/2334160/user2334160)  [user2334160](http://stackoverflow.com/users/2334160/user2334160) **76**2 | | |
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| up vote1down vote | You can use:  $userinput = [Console]::ReadLine()  or  $userinput = Read-Host "Enter input here:" |