

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Convert all text file data from upper to lowercase: 2

Convert variable data from upper to lowercase: 2

Recommended readings: 2

 Sample Shell Script 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [BASH Shell](#)

Shell Scripting: Convert Uppercase to Lowercase

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. How do I convert uppercase words to lowercase or vice versa under BASH shell? I've a small shell script and I'd like to convert all incoming user input to lowercase using a shell script.

A. Use `tr` command to convert all incoming text / words / variable data from upper to lower case or vice versa (translate all uppercase characters to lowercase).



[1]

Convert all text file data from upper to lowercase:

Type the following command at shell:

```
$ tr '[:upper:]' '[:lower:]' < input.txt > output.txt
```

Convert variable data from upper to lowercase:

```
$ echo $VAR_NAME | tr '[:upper:]' '[:lower:]'
$ echo $VAR_NAME | tr '[:lower:]' '[:upper:]'
```

Recommended readings:

=> See [tr command shell scripting example](#) ^[2] for more information.

Sample Shell Script

```
#!/bin/bash
# get filename
echo -n "Enter File Name : "
read fileName

# make sure file exists for reading
if [ ! -f $fileName ]; then
    echo "Filename $fileName does not exists"
    exit 1
fi

# convert uppercase to lowercase using tr command
tr '[A-Z]' '[a-z]' < $fileName
```

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our [daily email](#) newsletter or [weekly newsletter](#) to make sure you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via [RSS/XML](#) feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/>URL to article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-unix-shell-programming-converting-lowercase-uppercase/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/bash-shell/>

[2] tr command shell scripting example: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/how-to-use-linux-unix-tr-command/>