

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents	1
-------------------------	---

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [FAQ](#)

Shell scripting: read one line at a time from keyboard

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Sometime it is necessary to read one line from a file or keyboard. We have Shell script utility to read a file line by line [here](#) ^[1] and [here](#) ^[2]. However, you can use line command to do same thing.

For example, read one line from keyboard and store to variable called na:

```
$ na=$(line)
```

```
Howdy Guest
```

```
$ echo $na
```

Output:

```
Howdy Guest
```

The utility line copies one line (up to a newline) from standard input (keyboard) to standard output (screen). It always prints at least a newline and returns an exit status of 1 on EOF or read error.

You can easily use line command in a shell scripts.

(Check out all of our posts on [Shell Scripting](#) ^[3])

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URLs in this post:

[1] here: <http://bash.cyberciti.biz/file-management/readline.php>

[2] here: <http://bash.cyberciti.biz/file-management/readline2.php>

[3] Shell Scripting: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/>