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## Explain: #!/bin/bash - or #!/bin/bash -- In A Shell Script

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**Q.** I know #!/bin/bash is [shebang line](#) <sup>[2]</sup>. But, I noticed a few shell script shebang line ends with a single dash (#!/bin/bash -) or double dash (#!/bin/bash --). Can you explain the purpose of such shebang line?

**A.** A - or -- signals the end of options and disables further option processing i.e. bash will not accept any of its options. Any arguments after the -- are treated as filenames and arguments. An argument of - is equivalent to --. This is done to improve script security. Some user may perform setuid based script root spoofing. To avoid interpreter spoofing you need to add -- to #!/bin/bash. This is rare but possible attack.



[1]

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

[2] shebang line: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/finding-bash-perl-python-portably-using-env.html>