Table Of Contents

Home > Faq > BASH Shell

BASH: Prepend A Text / Lines To a File

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. I can append text to a file using >> operator but how do I prepend a text to a file? I want the opposit of >> operation?

A. There is no prepend operator, however there are many ways to do the same. You can use ed, sed, perl, awk and so on.

Prepend a text using a temporary file

[1]

Here is simple solution using a temporary file to prepend text:

```
echo 'line 1' > /tmp/newfile
echo 'line 2' >> /tmp/newfile
cat yourfile >> /tmp/newfile
cp /tmp/newfile yourfile
```

Here is one line solution:

```
echo "text"|cat - yourfile > /tmp/out && mv /tmp/out yourfile
```

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/bash-prepend-text-lines-to-file/**

URLs in this post:

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