

Value not set using \$GITHUB_OUTPUT

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I have been previously using set-output for setting values, but we now get the "deprecated feature" messages and I'm using \$GITHUB_OUTPUT as prescribed.

I replace all instances of

```
run: echo ::set-output name=Key::Value
```

with

```
run: "Key=Value" >> $GITHUB_OUTPUT
```

but Key does not appear to be set.

My runner is on Windows, version 2.299.1 and the workflow is using CMD. All calls to set-output work, and all using \$GITHUB_OUTPUT do not.

Simplified action code

```
defaults:
  run:
  shell: cmd

jobs:
  EnvSetup:
    name: Publish Base Environment Vars
    runs-on: [self-hosted, Windows, myLabel]
    outputs:
      var_Project: ${ steps.set-Project.outputs.Project }
      var_Val1: ${ steps.set-Val1.outputs.Val1 }
      var_Val2: ${ steps.set-Val2.outputs.Val2 }
    steps:
      - name: Project
        id: set-Project
        run: echo ::set-output name=Project::Larry

      - name: Val1
        id: set-Val1
        run: echo "Val1=Curly" >> $GITHUB_OUTPUT

      - name: Val2
        id: set-Val2
        run: echo "Val2=Moe" >> $GITHUB_OUTPUT

    ...

  Testing:
    name: ShowStuff
    runs-on: [self-hosted, Windows, myLabel]
```

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steps:

```
- name: Print environment variables
run: |
  echo "Project: ${ needs.EnvSetup.outputs.var_Project }" ^
  echo "MyProject: ${ env.MyProject }" ^
  echo "Val1: ${ needs.EnvSetup.outputs.var_Val1 }" ^
  echo "Val2: ${ needs.EnvSetup.outputs.var_Val2 }"
```

The output:

```
echo "Project: Larry"
echo "MyProject: Larry_ABC"
echo "Val1: "
echo "Val2: "
```

From everything I've seen, the way to reference the values hasn't changed, just the set.

Has anyone else tried it using CMD? I'll go to PowerShell if I have to, but that's not a small change if I can avoid it.

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edited Feb 3 at 12:14

asked Nov 15, 2022 at 10:17

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Syntax looks correct (compare to this example using linux / bash stackoverflow.com/a/74378072/3302747). So I'm guessing it's something with your runner (windows). Try something simple, like echo out Path. I'm not 100% sure of the windows syntax for cmd – [Baked Inhalf](#) Nov 15, 2022 at 12:25

@BakedInhalf, the windows runner uses PowerShell Core as the default script shell. Linux and Mac use bash. When targeting multiple platforms, it makes sense to explicitly state the `shell: cmd | pwsh | powershell | bash` . – [jessehouwing](#) 🌟 Nov 15, 2022 at 16:39

- 1 @jessehouwing No need to specify shell every time, just add it in `defaults: run: shell: <my-shell>` (needs formatting) – [Baked Inhalf](#) Nov 16, 2022 at 7:43 ✎

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Windows run the script task using PowerShell Core by default, not bash. So you need to use PowerShell syntax, or set the `shell: bash` property on the script action.

```
- name: Val2
```

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When using these commands with PowerShell, make sure you redirect to

`$env:GITHUB_OUTPUT :`

```
- name: Val2
  id: set-Val2
  run: echo "Val2=Moe" >> $env:GITHUB_OUTPUT
  shell: pwsh
```

I also explicitly added `shell: pwsh` above, as the "old PowerShell" needs to be told to write UTF-8:

```
- shell: powershell
  run: |
    "mypath" | Out-File -FilePath $env:GITHUB_PATH -Encoding utf8 -Append
```

When using `shell: cmd` you'd need to use `%GITHUB_OUTPUT%`, and change the codepage to Unicode:

```
@chcp 65001>nul
echo Val2=Moe >> %GITHUB_OUTPUT%
```

The screenshot shows a GitHub Actions workflow configuration. It has two jobs, both marked as completed with checkmarks.

Run a one-line script

- 1. Run `@chcp 65001>nul`
- 2. `@chcp 65001>nul`
- 3. `echo Val2=Moe >> %GITHUB_OUTPUT%`
- 4. `shell: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.EXE /D /E:ON /V:OFF /S /C "CALL \"{0}\""`

Run a multi-line script

- 1. Run `echo "The selected color is Moe "`
- 2. `echo "The selected color is Moe "`
- 3. `shell: C:\Program Files\PowerShell\7\pwsh.EXE -command ". '{0}'"`
- 4. The selected color is Moe

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edited Nov 15, 2022 at 18:11

answered Nov 15, 2022 at 10:29

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Blogged: jessehouwing.net/github-actions-workflow-commands-in-cmd – [jessehouwing](#) Nov 15, 2022 at 17:54

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