Bash for Loop Over JSON Array Using jq (/blog/bash-for-loop-over-json-array-using-jq/)

Sometimes you just want to read a JSON config file from Bash and iterate over an array. For example, when seeding some credentials to a rkandwayne.com) credential store (https://github.com/cloudfoundry-community/credhub-seeder-

<u>boshrelease/blob/797228c3bf13c0c4f5aefaafa9e38f393bd78b1f/jobs/credhubseeder/templates/bin/credhub-seeder)</u>. This sometimes can be tricky especially when the JSON contains multi-line strings (for example certificates).

In this blog post I will explain how this can be done with <u>jq</u> (https://stedolan.github.io/jq/download/) and a Bash for loop.

First we will start with some data:

```
sample='[{"name":"foo"},{"name":"bar"}]'
echo "${sample}" | jq '.'
```

By using jq --compact-output (or -c) we can get each object on a newline.

```
sample='[{"name":"foo"},{"name":"bar"}]'
echo "${sample}" | jq -c '.[]'
```

```
{"name":"foo"}
{"name":"bar"}
```

We could start iterating of the above with a Bash for loop if our data does not contain spaces or newlines. But since certificates contain newlines we better base64 encode each line. Also, instead of -c, we now use -r to get rid of the extra quotes.

```
sample='[{"name":"foo"},{"name":"bar"}]'
echo "${sample}" | jq -r '.[] | @base64'
```

```
eyJuYW1lIjoiZm9vIn0=
eyJuYW1lIjoiYmFyIn0=
```

Now let's build our for loop.

```
sample='[{"name":"foo"},{"name":"bar"}]'
for row in $(echo "${sample}" | jq -r '.[] | @base64'); do
    _jq() {
    echo ${row} | base64 --decode | jq -r ${1}
    }
    echo $(_jq '.name')
done
```

```
foo
bar
```



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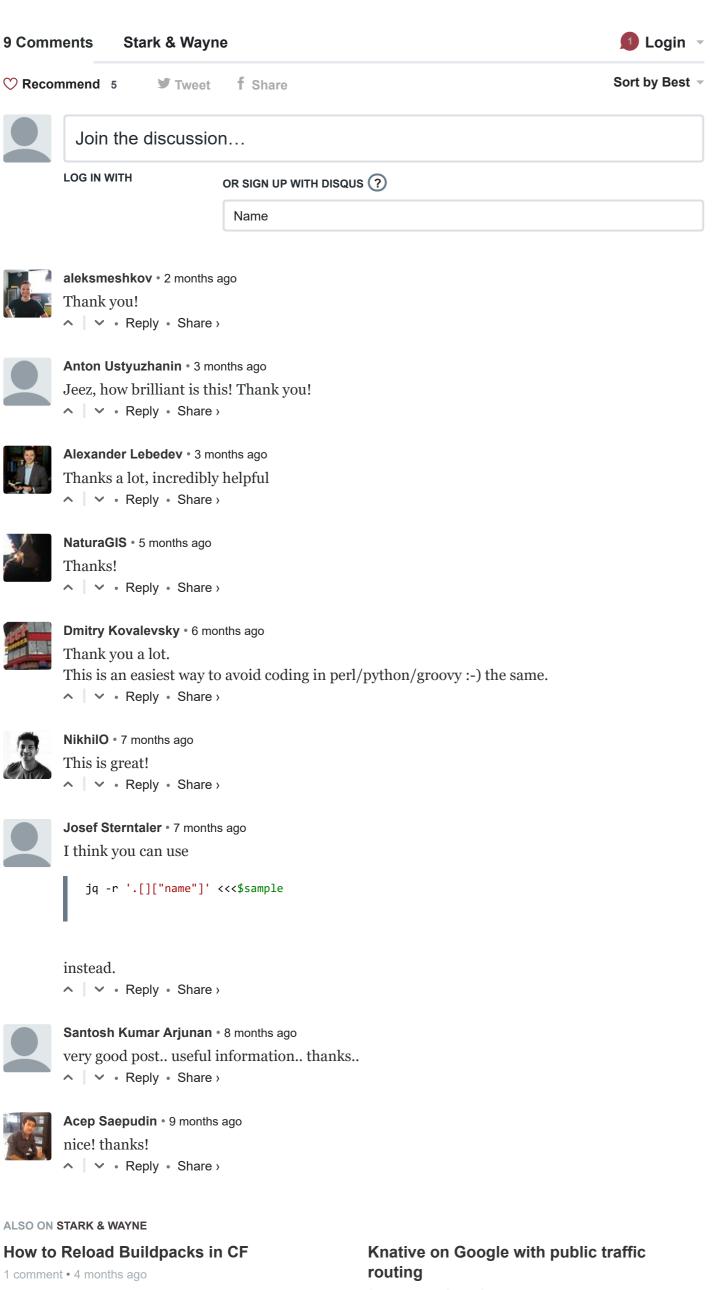
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ericpromislow — Or you could copy `post-start` to a new file called something like `installbuildpacks`, set it to the above code, run it, ...

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James Hunt — Thanks!

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Srinivasa Katta — Thanks Chris, your explanation saves a lot of time to understand AWS CLI. Thanks.

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