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How-to: Use a 'Here Document'

A here document is a block of text or code which is redirected to an interactive program or a command.

```
#!/bin/bash
Command <<MyUniqueLimitString
some text
some more text
MyUniqueLimitString
```

The above is equivalent to `Command < tempfile.txt` where the tempfile contains the text required.

EOF and END are often chosen as the *MyUniqueLimitString* but any string can be used as long as it does not appear within the here document text.

The - option to mark a here document limit string (`<<-LimitString`) will suppress leading tabs (but not spaces) in the output. This allows the use of indentation (with tabs) when writing here-documents in shell scripts making them more readable.

Here documents can also be used to supply values to variables or functions.

Examples

Pass multiple lines of text to cat

```
#!/bin/bash
cat <<End-of-text
--------------------------
The quick brown fox
jumped over the lazy dog
--------------------------
End-of-text
```

To also write the text to a file, change `cat` to `cat > $filename`

Substituting values from a variable (or more likely a parameter to the script) makes it possible to alter the body of the here document:

```
#!/bin/bash
ACTION="Quickly"

cat <<End-of-txt
The quick brown fox $ACTION
jumped over the lazy dog
End-of-txt
```

To disable parameter substitution put quotes around the limit string: `<<"End-of-message"`

Start mysql passing multiple variables for username/password:

```
#!/bin/bash
DB_NAME="db064"
PASSWORD="Pa$$w0rd"
APP_USER="user64"
APP_PASSWORD="cfE7JcEbgzW1XUUaEQ"

mysql -u root --password="${PASSWORD}" <<EOF
CREATE DATABASE ${DB_NAME};
CREATE USER '${APP_USER}'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY '${APP_PASSWORD}';
GRANT ALL ON ${DB_NAME}.* TO '${APP_USER}'@'localhost'
EOF
```

Related linux commands

Here Strings
BASH Syntax
Windows PowerShell equivalent: Here strings