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SC2002

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Joachim Ansorg edited this page on 13 Nov 2021 · 10 revisions

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Useless cat. Consider `cmd < file | ..` or `cmd file | ..` instead.

🔗 Problematic code:

```
cat file | tr ' ' _ | nl
cat file | while IFS= read -r i; do echo "${i%?}"; done
```

Correct code:

```
< file tr ' ' _ | nl
while IFS= read -r i; do echo "${i%?}"; done < file
```

Rationale:

`cat` is a tool for con"cat"enating files. Reading a single file as input to a program is considered a [Useless Use Of Cat (UUOC)](#).

It's more efficient and less roundabout to simply use redirection. This is especially true for programs that can benefit from seekable input, like `tail` or `tar`.

Many tools also accept optional filenames, e.g. `grep -q foo file` instead of `cat file | grep -q foo`.

Exceptions

Pointing out UUOC is a long standing shell programming tradition, and removing them from a short-lived pipeline in a loop can speed it up by 2x. However, it's not necessarily a good use of time in practice, and rarely affects correctness. [Ignore](#) as you see fit.

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ShellCheck

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Each individual ShellCheck warning has its own wiki page like SC1000. Use GitHub Wiki's "Pages" feature above to find a specific one, or see Checks.

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https://github.com/koalaman/shellcheck.wiki.git