Trying to write a heredoc into an existing file using Sed in bash

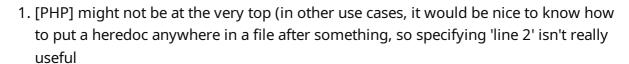
Asked 6 years, 3 months ago Modified 6 years, 3 months ago Viewed 904 times



I'm attempting to write a heredoc at the top of my php.ini file directly under the [PHP] line. I'm also attempting to do it assuming the following conditions:

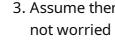








2. The heredoc has to be contained in the file. No use of sed where another file is opened and read into the existing file



- 3. Assume there is only one instance of the [PHP] identifier. In this learning exercise, I'm not worried about iterating a list, or Sed / Awk finding more than one instance of my search string
- 4. I'd really like to have each item on its own line just like in the heredoc

Script:

```
myvar=$(cat << END_HEREDOC</pre>
zend extension=/usr/lib/php/20151226/xdebug.so
xdebug.remote_host = localhost
xdebug.idekey = "PHPSTORM"
xdebug.remote_autostart = 1
xdebug.remote_connect_back = 1
xdebug.remote_enable=1
xdebug.remote_port=9000
xdebug.show_local_vars=0
xdebug.var_display_max_data=10000
xdebug.var_display_max_depth=20
xdebug.show_exception_trace=0
xdebug.remote_handler=dbgp
END_HEREDOC
echo ${myvar}
sed -i "/\[PHP\]'/${myvar}/'" php.ini
```

In every iteration I've tried, I simply end up with a php.ini looking like this:

```
[PHP]
$myvar
```

Or, I get the following error:

```
sed: -e expression #1, char 15: unknown command: `e'
```

My goal is:

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```
[PHP]
 [xdebug]
zend extension=/usr/lib/php/20151226/xdebug.so
xdebug.remote_host = localhost
xdebug.idekey = "PHPSTORM"
xdebug.remote_autostart = 1
xdebug.remote connect back = 1
xdebug.remote_enable=1
xdebug.remote_port=9000
xdebug.show_local_vars=0
xdebug.var_display_max_data=10000
xdebug.var_display_max_depth=20
xdebug.show_exception_trace=0
xdebug.remote_handler=dbgp
            heredoc
bash
     sed
```

asked Nov 30, 2017 at 20:27



You sed command is of the form sed "/a/b/" shouldn't it be sed "s/a/b/" ? – Socowi Nov 30, 2017 at 20:48

2 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)

\$



2

While this task can be done with sed, sed is not optimal. It does not support variables. Anytime one has to encorporate shell variables within a sed command, one opens potential security flaws. Awk, by contrast, is well-suited to this task. If you have GNU awk (gawk), try:









\$ cat script.sh myvar=' [xdebug] zend_extension=/usr/lib/php/20151226/xdebug.so xdebug.remote_host = localhost xdebug.idekey = "PHPSTORM" xdebug.remote_autostart = 1 xdebug.remote_connect_back = 1 xdebug.remote_enable=1 xdebug.remote_port=9000 xdebug.show_local_vars=0 xdebug.var_display_max_data=10000 xdebug.var_display_max_depth=20 xdebug.show_exception_trace=0 xdebug.remote_handler=dbgp awk -i inplace -v x="\$myvar" '{print} /\[PHP\]/{print x}' php.ini The result is:

```
$ cat php.ini
[PHP]

[xdebug]
zend_extension=/usr/lib/php/20151226/xdebug.so
xdebug.remote_host = localhost
xdebug.idekey = "PHPSTORM"
xdebug.remote_autostart = 1
xdebug.remote_connect_back = 1
xdebug.remote_enable=1
xdebug.remote_port=9000
xdebug.show_local_vars=0
xdebug.var_display_max_data=10000
xdebug.var_display_max_depth=20
xdebug.show_exception_trace=0
xdebug.remote_handler=dbgp
```

BSD/OSX or other non-GNU awk

If your awk does not support GNU's -i inplace option, then replace the awk line with:

```
awk -v x="$myvar" '{print} /\[PHP\]/{print x}' php.ini >tmp && mv tmp php.ini
```

Notes

myvar can be defined directly, as shown above, without using cat or here-docs.

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#!/bin/bash

edited Nov 30, 2017 at 21:01

answered Nov 30, 2017 at 20:48



I chose this answer because of elaboration on using the correct tool. Thanks for steering me towards Awk. I assumed Awk and Sed were basically the same thing. Like VI or Emacs. I'm going to explore using it more. Sed is 'awk'ward sometimes. – CarComp Dec 1, 2017 at 13:25



You can use the sed $\,\mathbf{r}\,$ command which inserts text from a file, but use process substitution to replace the filename with the heredoc:

1





```
sed -i '' '/\[PHP]/r '<(cat << END_HEREDOC
[xdebug]
zend_extension=/usr/lib/php/20151226/xdebug.so
xdebug.remote_host = localhost
xdebug.idekey = "PHPSTORM"
xdebug.remote_autostart = 1
xdebug.remote_connect_back = 1
xdebug.remote_enable=1
xdebug.remote_port=9000
xdebug.show_local_vars=0</pre>
```

```
xdebug.var_display_max_data=10000
xdebug.var_display_max_depth=20
xdebug.show_exception_trace=0
xdebug.remote_handler=dbgp
END_HEREDOC
) php.ini
```

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edited Dec 1, 2017 at 1:33

answered Nov 30, 2017 at 23:50



After I upvoted this, I found this doesn't work as is. cat needs arg - and if "N" command required after "r". I corrected your script as pastebin.com/F20vgr7K. (see also my newly written answer of referred question stackoverflow.com/a/56182135/26736). Anyway your code helps me because I don't know "<(..) " bash trick. Thanks! - benok May 17, 2019 at 8:19