From <https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621102311919> ... Saving as a dumb copy/paste so the info does not go away.



**Matt Wood:m:** [Nov 16th at 12:51 PM](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621102311919)

I have a similar 'how-to' question to this one, but am trying to use a GITHUB secret environment variable for {googlesheets4} auth in a GITHUB action. Any recommendations for tutorial or reference material?  
<https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1666821399666559>

jonthegeek

I'm [deploying to shinyapps using a GHA](https://github.com/r4ds/mentordash/blob/main/.github/workflows/deploy_shinyapps.yml). That part is working. However, I want to send an .Renviron file (or otherwise include a secret in the shinyapps environment). Does anybody know how to do that in an action? I could put the secret into my /settings/secrets/actions, but I'm not sure how to write it so it gets uploaded (but doesn't otherwise save anywhere nor show up in the action logs, etc). Any ideas [@Tan](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/team/UU8KP9KR9)?

[Thread in help-zzz-github\_open\_source](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1666821399666559) | [Oct 26th](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1666821399666559) | [View message](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1666821399666559)

1**1**

19 replies



**Matt Wood:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621173318389?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

trying not to accidentally share my Google token with the internet :upside_down_face:



**jonthegeek:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621282493869?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

[@Tan](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/team/UU8KP9KR9)’s suggestion worked out well for [this](https://github.com/r4ds/shinyslack/blob/main/.github/workflows/pr_check.yml). But if you just need to include the secret in the GHA (not push it on PAST the GHA), you can go back a step and put that auth in /settings/secrets/actions, and then reference it in the action with ${{secrets.YOUR\_SECRET\_NAME}}

[**pr\_check.yml**](https://github.com/r4ds/shinyslack/blob/main/.github/workflows/pr_check.yml)

name: pr\_check  
on:  
  pull\_request:  
    branches: main  
    paths-ignore:

Show more

[r4ds/shinyslack](https://github.com/r4ds/shinyslack) | Added by [GitHub](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/services/B01USE799GC)



**Matt Wood:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621614234629?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

thanks. if I call a variable in one of these run: sections of the yaml, am I then able to use that var in an R file later, e.g. shell: Rscript main.R ?I don't have a great understanding of scoping and what is made available to the container that is spun up by GHA



**Tan:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621719956069?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

If you set up secrets here

image.png



**Tan:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621753669149?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

and then initialize environment variables here

image.png



**Tan:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621763913809?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

you can access them with Sys.getenv() within your script in the run step - those variables will persist in all actions (edited)



**jonthegeek:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621835496239?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

To make things available to R... what [@Tan](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/team/UU8KP9KR9) said :smile:My case was to make the variables available in the deployed environment, which the GHA was creating, rather than on GHA itself. If that helps to clarify the difference. Write an .Renviron file to send to [shinyapps.io](http://shinyapps.io/) (for example), but if you just need them during the GHA run, use env:.



**Tan:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668621873594329?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

Yeah, think of GHA as "setting up a machine from code/specifications" - Jon's need was more "how do I deploy env variables from GHA secrets to [shinyapps.io](http://shinyapps.io/)" - if you just need it on the machine that runs the code, specifying as envvars is totally fine (edited)



**Matt Wood:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668622185203349?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

ah nice, thanks [@Tan](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/team/UU8KP9KR9)! so to test code locally, I'd add the project .Renviron to the .gitignore , and use Sys.getenv() in the main.R to get those tokens/secretsthen when I push my stuff up to GITHUB, make sure the SECRETS have the same name as they did in my .Renviron locally, and use [@jonthegeek](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/team/U97EWTD7F)'s example for referencing to bring them into the active environment that is then referenced by the Sys.getenv() when I shell: Rscript main.R in the GHA yamldoes that sound correct/reasonable?



**Tan:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668622237909629?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

Exactly! Set up github actions to have same env variable names as .renviron, gitignore said renviron, and go from there :smile: (edited)



**Matt Wood:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668622263207179?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

who said you can't teach an old :dog2: new tricks :wink:



**Tan:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668622274196789?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

this reply is to fool mentordash, i'd otherwise just give it a thumb up



**jonthegeek:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668622298311169?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

We can just mark this with  I think, [@Tan](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/team/UU8KP9KR9) :rolling_on_the_floor_laughing:

:eyes:**1**



**Tan:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668622320116159?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

lol but customer satisfaction says we must wait for matt to say he solved it



**Tan:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668622337211649?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

(snerk snerk)



**Matt Wood:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668622367386009?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

fokls, just done it. where do I leave 5-:star: review?

:joy:1



**Matt Wood:m:**  [23 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668622431357959?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

thanks again for steerage (edited)



**Matt Wood:m:**  [22 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668699517342299?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

quick add to this thread, I am finding this blog post really helpful. {googlesheets4} documentation had me thinking I needed to auth using the token from gargle::token\_fetch() and I couldn't figure out how to hide the token file for the GHA.  
[https://www.r-bloggers.com/2021/09/creating-a-data-pipeline-with-github-actions-the-go[…]age-for-the-canadian-premier-league-soccer-data-initiative/](https://www.r-bloggers.com/2021/09/creating-a-data-pipeline-with-github-actions-the-googledrive-package-for-the-canadian-premier-league-soccer-data-initiative/)I see here once I get the JSON key I can save it  
and reference in .Renviron with

GOOGLE\_AUTHENTICATION\_CREDENTIALS = readLines(con = "/.secrets/my\_key\_name.json", nchar = 10000L)

while in the repo settings >> secrets parking a variable with the same name and copied text from that file per [@Tan](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/team/UU8KP9KR9)’s screenshots above (edited)

R-bloggers**R-bloggers**

[**Creating a data pipeline with Github Actions & the {googledrive} package for the Canadian Premier League soccer data initiative! | R-bloggers**](https://www.r-bloggers.com/2021/09/creating-a-data-pipeline-with-github-actions-the-googledrive-package-for-the-canadian-premier-league-soccer-data-initiative/)

In analytics for any particular field, it’s not enough to be able to create output (fancy charts, dashboards, reports, etc.) but also be able to collect the data you want to use in a easy, reproducible, and most importantly, consi...

Sep 22nd, 2021



**Matt Wood:m:**  [22 days ago](https://rfordatascience.slack.com/archives/CA349P7EC/p1668700109894909?thread_ts=1668621102.311919&cid=CA349P7EC)

PS- <https://crontab.guru/> webapp referenced in blog was really helpful... I would never have thought to format a date/schedule the way cron does

**crontab.guru**

[**Crontab.guru - The cron schedule expression editor**](https://crontab.guru/)

An easy to use editor for crontab schedules.