

# How to append output to the end of a text file

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How do I append the output of a command to the end of a text file?

349

bash

shell



44

edited Oct 23 '18 at 23:59



codeforester

19.2k 8 42 68

asked Jun 1 '11 at 20:55



vincy

1,784 3 12 5

## 8 Answers



Use `>>` instead of `>` when directing output to a file:

516

```
your_command >> file_to_append_to
```



If `file_to_append_to` does not exist, it will be created.

### Example:

```
$ echo "hello" > file
$ echo "world" >> file
$ cat file
```

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edited Jul 14 '16 at 12:29

answered Jun 1 '11 at 20:57



aioobe

333k 77 704 759

- 
- 2 The problem is that `echo` removes the newlines from the string. How do you append to a file a string which contains newlines? – [Timothy Swan](#) Dec 15 '17 at 21:25
- 
- 5 @TimothySwan, I believe with the `-e` option. – [Valentin Grégoire](#) Mar 5 '18 at 7:44
- 



You can use the `>>` operator. This will append data from a command to the end of a text file.

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To test this try running:



```
echo "Hi this is a test" >> textfile.txt
```

Do this a couple of times and then run:

```
cat textfile.txt
```

You'll see your text has been appended several times to the `textfile.txt` file.

answered Jun 1 '11 at 20:58



walta

3,152 16 24

52

▲ To append a file use >>

```
echo "hello world" >> read.txt
cat read.txt
echo "hello siva" >> read.txt
cat read.txt
```

then the output should be

```
hello world  # from 1st echo command
hello world  # from 2nd echo command
hello siva
```

▼ To overwrite a file use >

```
echo "hello tom" > read.txt
cat read.txt
```

then the out put is

```
hello tom
```

edited Jan 26 at 5:54



Community ♦

1 1

answered Apr 30 '18 at 10:16



yoctotutor.com

2,288 10 27

▲ Use command >> file\_to\_append\_to to append to a file.

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**CAUTION:** if you only use a single `>` you will completely overwrite the contents of the file. To ensure that doesn't ever happen, you can add `set -o noclobber` to your `.bashrc`.

This ensures that if you accidentally type `command > file_to_append_to` to an existing file, it will alert you that the file exists already. Sample error message: `file exists: testFile.txt`

Thus, when you use `>` it will only allow you to create a new file, not overwrite an existing file.

answered Oct 21 '17 at 13:59



[craft](#)

443 6 13



Use the `>>` operator to append text to a file.

20



answered Jun 1 '11 at 20:57



[Nev Stokes](#)

5,710 3 31 39



for the whole question:

13

```
cmd >> o.txt && [[ $(wc -l <o.txt) -eq 720 ]] && mv o.txt !
```



this will append 720 lines (30\*24) into o.txt and after will rename the file based on the current date.

Run the above with the cron every hour, or

```
while .
```

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```
sleep 3600  
done
```

answered Jun 1 '11 at 22:56



jm666

44.4k

11

76

145

I'd suggest you do two things:

7

1. Use `>>` in your shell script to append contents to particular file. The filename can be fixed or using some pattern.
2. Setup a hourly cronjob to trigger the shell script

answered Sep 11 '14 at 15:20



sballmer

114

1

3

For example your file contains :

7

1. mangesh@001:~\$ cat output.txt  
1  
2  
EOF

if u want to append at end of file then ---->remember spaces between 'text' `>>` 'filename'

2. mangesh@001:~\$ echo somthing to append >> output.txt|  
1  
2  
EOF

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And to overwrite contents of file :

```
3. mangesh@001:~$ echo 'something new to write' > output
something new to write
```

edited Jan 20 '17 at 15:50



**Torsten**

**737** 1 11 35

answered Jan 15 '15 at 7:38



**Mangesh Bhapkar**

**220** 4 6

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This is misleading in many details. Spaces are *not* important and piping an empty output to `cat` is ... just completely wacky. (It's empty because you just redirected standard output to a file.) – [tripleee](#) Oct 24 '18 at 4:24

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