

# Bash Cheatsheet

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# Inhaltsverzeichnis

<b>Redirections</b>	<b>3</b>
Suppress output and errors . . . . .	3
<b>Read first line of a file into a variable</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Determine source directory of a bash script</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Verify environment variable</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Substitutions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Check syntax of shell script</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>History</b>	<b>9</b>
Resources . . . . .	9

# Redirections

## Suppress output and errors

```
$ hello-world  
Hello World!  
$ hello-world >/dev/null 2>&1
```

# Read first line of a file into a variable

To put the first line of the file `/etc/sympa/cookie` into the variable `$COOKIE` use the read builtin:

```
$ read -r COOKIE < /etc/sympa/cookie
```

# Determine source directory of a bash script

A bash script that tries to access a file with a relative path to the source directory will fail when the script is called from another directory.

In this case you can determine the absolute path with the *\$BASH\_SOURCE* variable:

```
FILE=$(dirname "${BASH_SOURCE[0]}")/myfile.txt
```

# Verify environment variable

Check that environment variable *API\_USER* is present and not empty:

```
: "${API_USER:?Please set API_USER environment variable}"
```

# Substitutions

Default value for first command line parameter:

```
DATE=${1:2019-January}
```

The substitution can be any shell syntax, even a command:

```
DATE=${1:-`date +%Y-%B`}
```

# Check syntax of shell script

```
$ bash -n myscript
```



# History

## Resources

How To Use Bash History Commands and Expansions

Linuxia Wiki

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