



### *Windows PowerShell Get-Help on Cmdlet 'Read-Host'*

***PS:\>Get-HELP Read-Host -Full***

#### NAME

Read-Host

#### SYNOPSIS

Reads a line of input from the console.

#### SYNTAX

Read-Host [[-Prompt] <System.Object>] [-AsSecureString] [<CommonParameters>]

#### DESCRIPTION

The `Read-Host` cmdlet reads a line of input from the console (stdin). You can use it to prompt a user for input. Because you can save the input as a secure string, you can use this cmdlet to prompt users for secure data, such as passwords.

> [!NOTE] > `Read-Host` has a limit of 8190 characters it can accept as input from a user.

**-AsSecureString <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>**

Indicates that the cmdlet displays asterisks (\*) in place of the characters that the user types as input. When you use this parameter, the output of the

`Read-Host` cmdlet is a SecureString object ( System.Security.SecureString ).

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Required?                   | false |
| Position?                   | named |
| Default value               | False |
| Accept pipeline input?      | False |
| Accept wildcard characters? | false |

**-Prompt <System.Object>**

Specifies the text of the prompt. Type a string. If the string includes spaces, enclose it in quotation marks. PowerShell appends a colon (:) to the text that you enter.

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Required?                   | false |
| Position?                   | 0     |
| Default value               | None  |
| Accept pipeline input?      | False |
| Accept wildcard characters? | false |

**<CommonParameters>**

This cmdlet supports the common parameters: Verbose, Debug, ErrorAction, ErrorVariable, WarningAction, WarningVariable, OutBuffer, PipelineVariable, and OutVariable. For more information, see about\_CommonParameters (<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=113216>).

## INPUTS

None

You can't pipe objects to this cmdlet.

## OUTPUTS

System.String

By default, this cmdlet returns a string.

System.Security.SecureString

When you use AsSecureString parameter, this cmdlet returns a SecureString .

## NOTES

This cmdlet only reads from the stdin stream of the host process. Usually, the stdin stream is connected to the keyboard of the host console.

----- Example 1: Save console input to a variable -----

```
$Age = Read-Host "Please enter your age"
```

----- Example 2: Save console input as a secure string -----

```
$pwd_secure_string = Read-Host "Enter a Password" -AsSecureString
```

----- Example 3: Normalizing input -----

```
$prompt = @(
```

```
'List the cities you want weather information for.'
```

```
'When specifying multiple cities, separate them with a semi-colon, like:'
```

```
"New York; Osan; Koforidua"
```

```
) -join ' '
```

```
$cities = Read-Host $prompt
```

```
"Input cities string: `n`t$cities"
```

```
$splitCities = $cities -split ','
```

```
"Split cities array:"
```

```
$splitCities | ForEach-Object -Process { "`t$_" }
```

```
$normalizedCities = $splitCities | ForEach-Object -Process { $_.Trim() }
```

```
"Normalized split cities array:"
```

```
$normalizedCities | ForEach-Object -Process { "`t$_" }
```

```
Input cities string:
```

```
' New York; Osan ;Koforidua '
```

```
Split cities array:
```

```
' New York'
```

```
' Osan '
```

```
'Koforidua '
```

```
Normalized split cities array:
```

```
'New York'
```

```
'Osan'
```

```
'Koforidua'
```

The example uses the ``-split`` operator to convert the input string into an array of strings. Each string in the array includes the name of a different city. However,

the split strings include extra spaces. The ``Trim()`` method removes the leading and trailing spaces from each string.

## RELATED LINKS

Online

Version:

[https://learn.microsoft.com/powershell/module/microsoft.powershell.utility/read-host?view=powershell-5.1&WT.mc\\_id=ps-get-help](https://learn.microsoft.com/powershell/module/microsoft.powershell.utility/read-host?view=powershell-5.1&WT.mc_id=ps-get-help)

Clear-Host

Get-Host

Write-Host

ConvertFrom-SecureString