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Windows PowerShell Get-Help on Cmdlet 'Write-Debug'

PS:\>Get-HELP Write-Debug -Full

NAME

Write-Debug

SYNOPSIS

Writes a debug message to the console.

SYNTAX

Write-Debug [-Message] <System.String> [<CommonParameters>]

DESCRIPTION

The `Write-Debug` cmdlet writes debug messages to the host from a script or command.

By default, debug messages are not displayed in the console, but you can display them by using the Debug parameter or the `\$DebugPreference` variable.

PARAMETERS

-Message <System.String>

Specifies the debug message to send to the console.

Required? true
Position? 0
Default value None
Accept pipeline input? True (ByValue)
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

System.String

You can pipe a string that contains a debug message to this cmdlet.

OUTPUTS

None

This cmdlet returns no output. It only writes to the debug stream.

NOTES

----- Example 1: Understand \$DebugPreference -----

Write-Debug "Cannot open file."

The default value of `'\$DebugPreference` is `SilentlyContinue` . Therefore, the message is not displayed in the console.

----- Example 2: Change the value of `$DebugPreference` -----

```
PS> $DebugPreference  
SilentlyContinue  
PS> Write-Debug "Cannot open file."  
PS>  
PS> $DebugPreference = "Continue"  
PS> Write-Debug "Cannot open file."  
DEBUG: Cannot open file.
```

For more information about `'$DebugPreference'`, see [about_Preference_Variables](#) (/powershell/module/Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Preference_Variables).

Example 3: Use the `Debug` parameter to override `$DebugPreference`

```
function Test-Debug {  
    [CmdletBinding()]  
    param()  
    Write-Debug ('$DebugPreference is ' + $DebugPreference)  
    Write-Host ('$DebugPreference is ' + $DebugPreference)  
}
```

```
PS> Test-Debug  
$DebugPreference is SilentlyContinue
```

```
PS> Test-Debug -Debug  
DEBUG: $DebugPreference is Inquire
```

Confirm

Continue with this operation?

[Y] Yes [A] Yes to All [H] Halt Command [?] Help (default is "Y"):

\$DebugPreference is Inquire

```
PS> $DebugPreference
```

SilentlyContinue

Notice that the value of `'\$DebugPreference` changes when you use the Debug parameter. This change only affects the scope of the function. The value is not affected outside the function.

> [!NOTE] > When the value of `'\$DebugPreference` is Inquire , PowerShell halts execution to ask if > execution should continue.

For more information about the Debug common parameter, see [about_CommonParameters](#) (<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=113216>).

RELATED LINKS

Online

Version:

https://learn.microsoft.com/powershell/module/microsoft.powershell.utility/write-debug?view=powershell-5.1&WT.mc_id=ps-gethelp

[about_Output_Streams](#)

[about_Redirection](#)

[Write-Error](#)

[Write-Host](#)

[Write-Output](#)

[Write-Progress](#)

[Write-Verbose](#)

[Write-Warning](#)