

**NAME**

openssl-passphrase-options - Pass phrase options

**SYNOPSIS**

**openssl** *command* [ *options ...* ] [ *parameters ...* ]

**DESCRIPTION**

Several OpenSSL commands accept password arguments, typically using **-passin** and **-passout** for input and output passwords respectively. These allow the password to be obtained from a variety of sources. Both of these options take a single argument whose format is described below. If no password argument is given and a password is required then the user is prompted to enter one: this will typically be read from the current terminal with echoing turned off.

Note that character encoding may be relevant, please see **passphrase-encoding(7)**.

**OPTIONS****Pass Phrase Option Arguments**

Pass phrase arguments can be formatted as follows.

**pass:***password*

The actual password is *password*. Since the password is visible to utilities (like 'ps' under Unix) this form should only be used where security is not important.

**env:***var*

Obtain the password from the environment variable *var*. Since the environment of other processes is visible on certain platforms (e.g. ps under certain Unix OSes) this option should be used with caution.

**file:***pathname*

The first line of *pathname* is the password. If the same *pathname* argument is supplied to **-passin** and **-passout** arguments then the first line will be used for the input password and the next line for the output password. *pathname* need not refer to a regular file: it could for example refer to a device or named pipe.

**fd:***number*

Read the password from the file descriptor *number*. This can be used to send the data via a pipe for example.

**stdin**

Read the password from standard input.

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