

# Escaping Variable References

You can reference a variable from an action by using percent signs, ie **%*USERNAME*%**. See [Using Variables](#).

To insert a percent sign, use %% - ie "**%%*Hello***" will expand to "**%*Hello***".

Some other characters are also escaped:

## All Escape Sequences

Character	Escape As
%	%%
#	##
\$(	\$\$



**\$(** and **##** are deprecated ways of referring to variables and Target parameters. We recommend you use **%** wherever possible.

## Disabling Recursive Expansion

If you have a variable whose contents contain characters marked above, then you can use **!*USERNAME*%** to tell FinalBuilder not to expand any variable references in the contents.

### Example

Suppose you had a project variable MySQL, which contained the text "WHERE Connection LIKE 'G%". If you reference the variable as **!*MySQL*%**, then the contents will be inserted verbatim without being scanned for variable references.

## Reading Text Files

The [Read Text File action](#) has an "escape any variables" option which will automatically escape any variable references found when reading a file.