

# Defining the first task

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Next, we need to write the *ecf script* for the task **t1**.

By default ecFlow expects files to be in a directory structure below ECF\_HOME that reflects the hierarchy of the suites. The *task t1* being in the *suite test*, the *ecf script* for the task **t1** must be in a sub-directory test.

- In ECF\_HOME, create a directory test:

```
mkdir test
```

- In test directory, create a file **t1.ecf** with the following contents:

**\$HOME/course/test/t1.ecf**

```
%include "../head.h"
echo "I am part of a suite that lives in %ECF_HOME%"
%include "../tail.h"
```

## Job creation

Before submitting the task, the server will transform the *ecf script* to a *job file*

This process is known as *job creation*.

This involves locating the *ecf script* on disk, and then *pre-processing* the *directives*. This process includes performing *variable substitution*.

This will create a file with a '.job' extension.

This is the script that *ecflow\_server* will submit to your system.

In our case:

- %include "../head.h" will be substituted by the content of the file *head.h*.

Note that the file name is given relatively to the file **t1.ecf**,  
i.e. in the directory above the one containing **t1.ecf**

- %ECF\_HOME% will be substituted by the value of the variable ECF\_HOME
- %include "../tail.h" will be substituted by the content of the file *tail.h*

## What to do

1. Create the *ecf script* **t1.ecf** in **\$HOME/course/test** directory

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