

# Adding a Secret

To use Secret as an environment-specific Variable, you should open the Variable Group and mark the Variable as Secret.

The following steps outline the process of marking a Variable as Secret:

1. From Azure DevOps, go to **Library**.
2. Select a Variable Group.
3. In the **Variables** section, mark a Variable as Secret by clicking **Change variable type to plain text**.



As Secrets are encrypted Variables with a higher protection level, users must declare them in the `env_vars` section of the `TransformationsOfConfigFiles/environment-specific-secrets.yaml` file.

This will allow reading Secrets and passing them, along with other environment-specific Variables, to Deployments during the Deploy Aras Innovator or Continuous Integration Pipelines.

If the Secret is not defined in the `environment-specific-secrets.yaml` file, it will be read as an empty Variable, so use caution.

