
Subject: Re: Change in behavior of string constants?
Posted by [djackson](#) on Wed, 05 Jan 1994 17:09:03 GMT
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In article <1994Jan4.182859.6569@ll.mit.edu>
ryba@ll.mit.edu (Marty Ryba) writes:

```
> We just updated to IDL Version 3.5.1 from 3.0, and this stopped working:
>
> tlab = string(flight, pass, desc, ihroll, $
>     format = '("Flight ",i0," Pass ",i0," - ",a," ",f5.1,"\xca Roll")')
> xyouts, 0.5, 0.93, tlab, /normal, alignment = 0.5, size = 1.5
>
> The \xca gave me the degree symbol with Helvetica Bold on a PostScript
> printer. With the new version, I get, literally, \xca in the string.
> I looked through the release notes, and there was no mention in changing the
> specification of octal or hexadecimal string constants. Help!
```

In case we don't hear an official word from RSI, I'll offer what I know:

With version 3.1, the backslash notation became obsolete, and you could now use STRING(202B) instead of "\xca". It's true that there was no change in the documentation, which for 3.1 still describes the backslash notation.

The explanation I got from RSI Tech Support was that, with the inclusion of Windows support, the backslash is now commonly seen as the directory delimiter in filenames, and the octal/hex notation had to go. I welcome clarification if needed.

-Dick

Dick Jackson djackson@ibd.nrc.ca Standard
disclaimer
Institute for Biodiagnostics, National Research Council Canada,
Winnipeg
Waitress:"We're out of hummous so I gave you extra babagonoush." Me:%^P
