
Subject: Re: Time on My Hands
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 21 Nov 2001 22:58:48 GMT
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Richard G. French (rfrench@wellesley.edu) writes:

- > Now that is totally cool! Where do we start the list of features
- > we'd like to add?? I love the way you can reposition the plot
- > using that little gizmo.

The only reason I wrote this program was to find another excuse to use that little gizmo!

- > I did manage to crash it by putting in an illegal format. Was not
- > sure what I was supposed to do at one point, so I tried a question
- > mark! That was a bad idea!

Yeah, I forgot a RETURN statement. It shouldn't have crashed. :-(

I anticipated that you might not know how to create a proper format. For example, if you leave the parentheses off, I'll fix that for you. I didn't anticipate a question mark, however. Although with this crowd that really is inexcusable. :-)

This program has a couple of weaknesses. This is one of them. When you input a string, pretty much anything is fair game. I could look for question marks, of course, but then I'd have to look for asterisks, and at signs, and, well, where would it end? In the first version of the program I had a pull-down list of possible formats, but this was considered too limiting. I guess at the very least I should have a RESET button to get back to the starting parameters.

- > What I should REALLY do is print out the program and figure out what
- > the heck is going on inside. Maybe I can talk someone else into washing
- > the dishes tomorrow while I do that....

This is not the easiest program to understand, probably. We started with a couple of assumptions that, in the end, added more complexity than we would have liked. If we wrote it again, it would have a slightly different structure, I think.

But, heck, if you get someone to do the dishes, it is still a productive way to spend the afternoon. :-)

Cheers,

David

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