
Subject: splitting difficult(?) strings

Posted by [hradilv.nospam](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2002 17:33:07 GMT

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Any ideas on what would be the easiest (best?) way to split strings that have the following characteristics? Perhaps best understood by looking at examples?

1)

```
buf= '4 5 6'
```

```
strsplit(buf, ' ',/extract) yields ['4','5','6'] {good}
```

2)

```
buf = ""4" "5" "6""
```

```
strsplit(buf, "" "",/extract) yields ['4','5','6'] {good}
```

3)

```
buf="" ""5" "6"" {should get ['', '5', '6']}
```

```
strsplit(buf, "" "",/extract) yields ['5','6'] {misses the empty one}
```

```
strsplit(buf, "" "",/extract) yields [ ' ', '5', ' ', '6'] {adds an extra  
empty one}
```

4)

```
buf=""3 4" "5" "6"" {should get ['3 4', '5', '6']}
```

```
strsplit(buf, "" "",/extract) yields ['3','4','5','6'] {adds an extra  
one}
```

```
strsplit(buf, "" "",/extract) yields ['3 4', ' ', '5', ' ', '6'] {I can  
always then get rid of the ' ' elements}
```

Maybe I can summarize: I would like something that will split the string by spaces, PROTECTED by "s. ie there may be spaces within the "s which should not cause a split.

Thanks in advance

Vince
