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>
> Ken Bowman

how bout just parsing the field, and multiplying it by an increasing number of powers of ten.

6.4.1 becomes $600 + 40 + 1$

7.1 becomes $700 + 10 + 0$

7.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1 becomes $700 + 10 + 1 + 0.1 + 0.01 \dots$ etc