
Subject: Re: Escaped Characters in string output
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Tue, 25 Sep 2012 10:35:53 GMT
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On Mon, 24 Sep 2012 20:13:06 -0700 (PDT), M. Katz wrote:

> To prepare string data for a database, I'd like to escape all of the special characters. Other languages have built-in functions for this. Does IDL, or someone from the community have a routine they trust?

>

> The special characters are

>

> \ ' " NUL (ASCII 0) \n and \r and CTRL-Z

>

> In essence I'd like to create a function that searches for these and places a backslash in front of each occurrence. See `mysql_real_escape_string()`
<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/mysql-real-escape-string.html> in PHP. In principle I suppose this is a good task for Regular Expressions, but I'm not enough of an expert.

>

> Thanks

I don't know about any built-in routine within IDL. I would make use of a conversion table. This may be more efficient than regular expressions:

```
table=[bytarr(1,256),bindgen(1,256)]  
table[0,[byte("\'\""),10b,13b,26b]]=(byte('\'))[0]
```

```
input="abc" 123 \xyz "aaa"a'  
output=table[:,byte(input)]  
output=string(output[where(output ne 0b)])  
print,input,output,form='(a)'
```

Cheers, Heinz

Subject: Re: Escaped Characters in string output
Posted by [M. Katz](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2012 05:11:54 GMT
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Very elegant. Thanks!
