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Subject: Re: Problem with STRSPLIT

Posted by [sritcey](#) on Thu, 10 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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R. Kyle Justice (rkj@dukebar.crml.uab.edu) wrote:

: Has anyone noticed this strange behavior with PV-Wave's

: STRSPLIT function?

[snip]

: if I have 'abc.xyz' I am not able to split it

: using '.'

That's because '.' has special meaning in defining the delimiter pattern. Note that the second input parameter to STRSPLIT is not a simple substring but a "regular expression". The concept of regular expression is expanded upon in some of the routines which them, but not this one. For a fuller discussion see the documentation for STRMATCH.

One way to get what you want is to use

```
result = strsplit ('abc.xyz', '\.')
```

to "escape" the period (i.e., disable its special meaning to the regular expression parsing engine).

(In my opinion the Wave documentation is deficient here in that the example is far too simple, using '.' as the search pattern, and leading the user to think that pattern is limited to being a simple substring.)

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