

Re: Manipulation of strings query

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Internet-Server/microsoft.public.inetserver.asp.general/2004-03/0644.html>

From: Bob Barrows [MVP] (*reb01501_at_NOyahoo.SPAMcom*)

Date: 03/09/04

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StressedMonkey wrote:

> *Hi Bob,*
>
> *The DB is Oracle & I think.*
>
> *I have received the data in an excel spreadsheet which contains the*
> *names in the LASTNAME, FIRSTNAME format and was going to just import*
> *it into a table in the DB. I don't know any way of getting excel to*
> *split a cell into 2 so that I could enter it as 2 fields in a*
> *database and I'm certainly not doing it manually as there are about*
> *2000 rows!*
>

Sorry, but there is no foolproof method. You will not be able to do this without some manual intervention to make sure that whatever method you used handled all the names correctly.

> *The problem with the string input is that users will not be entering*
> *the data on a form as such, the application performs an LDAP query*
> *against a last name that they enter. The query then returns the names*
> *in the Firstname (Space) Lastname format.....*

So modify the query so it returns the names in separate columns ... or is that out of your control as well?

Here is a simple vbscript way to split a string containing two words separated by a single space into two strings, each containing a word:

```
dim str,arSplit,sFirst, sLast, sFormatted
```

```
str="FirstName LastName"  
arSplit=Split(str, " ")  
sFirst = arSplit(0)  
sLast = arSplit(1)
```

To combine these and separate them by a comma:

```
sFormatted = sLast & ", " & sFirst
```

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This will work for most names. The problem arises with names like:

Nicholas Von Helsing
George Hamilton III
Morton Downey, Jr.
Anita Martinez Gonzales
Pamela Sue Anderson

Somebody is going to have to scrutinize the results of any algorithm you decide to use and verify that the unusual names were handled correctly.

Bob Barrows

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Please reply to the newsgroup. The email account listed in my From header is my spam trap, so I don't check it very often. You will get a quicker response by posting to the newsgroup.