

#36 Padding arrays

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An alternate method of loading an array

Many times when a scrollable area is used, more than one field needs to be displayed in each element. To do this, create a scrollable area in a monospace font like Monaco or Courier. A monospace font will be used so that columns will line up. Then pad each element with the appropriate number of spaces after each field. Below is a simple example of how to pad an array. Note that an asterisk can be used as a string operator to denote multiple strings. The example would create 15 character wide columns, the last one right justified.

```
Array{i}: =Field1+((15-Length(Field1))*" ")+Field2+  
          ((15-Length(Field2))*" ")+((15-Length(Field3))*" ")+Field3
```

It is important to note that the fewer assignment statements done, the faster the array will fill even if a single assignment is very large. For instance the above example will be much faster than the following:

```
$F1:=Field1+((15-Length(Field1))*" ")  
$F2:=Field2+((15-Length(Field2))*" ")  
$F3:=((15-Length(Field3))*" ")+Field3  
Array{i}:=$F1+$F2+$F3
```

The procedure editor will allow you to build as large of an assignment as you like. It is only strings that it truncates.

