

79 Converting AM/PM time to seconds

Written by Dave Dell'Aquila

Published March 9, 1988

This tech note describes how to convert a string representing the time of day entered in AM/PM format to an integer representing the number of seconds since midnight.

Syntax `AMPM2Seconds(strexpr)`

The following function will convert a strexpr in 00:00:00 am/pm, 00:00 am/pm, or 24 hour format to an integer which is equal to the number of seconds since midnight. If the AM/PM notation is left off, it will default to AM, hence there is no need to enter AM/PM if the time is entered in 24 hour format. Entering seconds is optional.

```

$colon:=Position(":";$1)
$colon2:=Position(":";Substring($1;$colon+1;Length($1)-$colon+1))+$colon
$xhours:=Num(Substring($1;1;$colon-1))
$xmins:=Num(Substring($1;$colon+1;2))
If ($colon2#0)            `if there isn't a second colon
    $xsecs:=Num(Substring($1;$colon2+1;2))
Else                      `user did not enter seconds
    $xsecs:=0
End if
$result:=( $xhours*60+$xmins)*60+$xsecs
Case of
: ($xhours=12)
    Case of
        : (Position("P";$1)=0)                      `midnight hour
        $0:=$result-43200                      `noon hour less 12 hours
    Else
        $0:=$result                      `noon hour, use the result
    End case
: ((Position("P";$1)#0)&($xhours<13))            `if there's a P in there
    $0:=$result+43200
Else                      `default to AM
    $0:=$result
End case

```

Example:

ALERT(String(AMPM2Seconds(Request("Enter a time:");Time string(Current time))))+" seconds")

