

## Re: scripting problem

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/RedHat/2008-01/msg00253.html>

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- *From:* Roderick Derks <[redhat@xxxxxx](mailto:redhat@xxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 28 Jan 2008 23:30:58 +0100 (CET)
- 

IFS= InternalFieldSeparator. The value of \$IFS is used by the script to separate values from each other.

See the difference if you use a colon

```
[code]
IFS=:
var="a:b:c::" # Same as above, but substitute ":" for " ".
output_args_one_per_line $var
#
# []
# [a]
# []
# [b]
# [c]
# []
# []
# []
```

You can temporarily change the value of the the IFS variable so that this doesn't happen.

```
[code]
ifs=$IFS
IFS=\
'
for NAMEDIR in ${DIRSTOBACKUP[@]}
do
echo $NAMEDIR
done
IFS=$ifs
```

Roderick

----- Original Message -----

From: "Steven Buehler" <[steve@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:steve@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
To: "General Red Hat Linux discussion list" <[redhat-list@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:redhat-list@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
Sent: 28 January 2008 22:23:04 o'clock (GMT+0100) Europe/Berlin  
Subject: RE: scripting problem

Re: scripting problem

How do you do that? Never heard of that before.  
Steve

-----Original Message-----

From: redhat-list-bounces@xxxxxxxxxx [<mailto:redhat-list-bounces@xxxxxxxxxx>] On Behalf Of Serge Dubrouski  
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 3:13 PM  
To: General Red Hat Linux discussion list  
Subject: Re: scripting problem

One way would be to set IFS (Internal Field Separator) to CR before your loop and restore it after it.

On Jan 28, 2008 2:00 PM, Aaron Bliss <[abliss@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:abliss@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Steve,  
The easiest way to work around the space problem is to just use tar

to

backup the home directory.

Aaron

Steven Buehler wrote:

I am hoping that someone here can help me with this. I am running

a little

script that backs up some directories for me. Below is snippet

that gets me

into trouble.

```
-----  
#!/bin/sh  
DIRSTOBACKUP=`/bin/ls -d1 /home/user/*`  
for NAMEDIR in ${DIRSTOBACKUP[@]}  
do  
echo $NAMEDIR  
done  
-----
```

The problem is that some of the directories have spaces in the

names. When

Re: scripting problem

running the for loop, it will take the new NAMEDIR at the space.

So "Red

Hat" would end up listing as 2 directories, "Red" and "Hat".  
Any

way around

this?

Thanks  
Steve

--

Aaron Bliss  
Systems Administrator  
SUNY Brockport  
(585) 395-2417

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Serge Dubrouski.

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