
Subject: It don't mean a thing, if you aint got that string!

Posted by [reborn](#) on Sun, 28 Feb 2010 13:23:52 GMT

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I have a std::string (oh noes, not std!). And I want to tell if the first character in that string is an ampersand (&).

The std::String variable is strd.

This conditional returns true always, even if the first character is not an ampersand:

```
if(strd[0] == '&'){
```

So I thought I'd try this:

```
const char *character = (const char *)strd.at(0);
printf("%s\n",strd.c_str());
printf("%c\n",strd[0]);
printf("%c\n",character);
if(strstr(character, "~")){
```

The printf's print the following:

Quote:

#lobby

#

#

Then at the strstr it crashes (I guess because it's supposed to be comparing strings, not characters).

Can someone suggest an appropriate way to check if the first character of a std::string equal &, please?

Subject: Re: It don't mean a thing, if you aint got that string!

Posted by [BlueThen](#) on Sun, 28 Feb 2010 15:18:33 GMT

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I believe compare() is used for matching strings,
<http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/string/string/compare/>

Subject: Re: It don't mean a thing, if you aint got that string!
Posted by [Tunaman](#) on Sun, 28 Feb 2010 15:21:48 GMT
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Did you try using just a char instead of a pointer to a char?

Subject: Re: It don't mean a thing, if you aint got that string!
Posted by [danpaul88](#) on Sun, 28 Feb 2010 15:23:07 GMT
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```
if((strd.c_str())[0] == '&'){
```

Perhaps? (NB: I have not tried to compile that, but it *should* work in theory... the brackets around the `strd.c_str()` may or may not be required depending on the other of precedence.)

Basically you should get the underlying `c_str` and then get the first index of THAT array instead.

Subject: Re: It don't mean a thing, if you aint got that string!
Posted by [reborn](#) on Sun, 28 Feb 2010 17:41:50 GMT
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danpaul88 wrote on Sun, 28 February 2010 10:23if((strd.c_str())[0] == '&'){

Perhaps? (NB: I have not tried to compile that, but it *should* work in theory... the brackets around the `strd.c_str()` may or may not be required depending on the other of precedence.)

Basically you should get the underlying `c_str` and then get the first index of THAT array instead.

Cheers Dan, I did try: `strd.at(0).c_str()` which was my attempt at trying what you just posted, but it's obviously invalid. I'm at work so cannot try what you just wrote, but will give it a go when I get in.

Subject: Re: It don't mean a thing, if you aint got that string!
Posted by [reborn](#) on Mon, 01 Mar 2010 00:12:04 GMT
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Thanks, that worked.

Subject: Re: It don't mean a thing, if you aint got that string!

Posted by [Khyron263](#) on Mon, 01 Mar 2010 03:13:28 GMT

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damnit! now that songs stuck in my head!
