



October's Tip - The "X" Factor

This month's tip was submitted by Andy Gladys and adapted from "The "X" factor" By John Kohan of Search400.com

XFOOT / %XFOOT - takes the elements of an array and totals all the elements. Say we're creating a report for a rolling 12 months to print the customers' revenue. We want to display each month's total revenue across 12 columns and then print the grand total in the thirteenth column. In RPG/400:

```
E          REV          12  9  2      Revenue
C          KLCP          SETLLCUST
C          X             DOUEQ12
C          *IN81         OREQ *ON
C          KLCP          READECUST          81
C          *IN81         IFEQ *OFF
C*
C** Load the customer array
C*
C          ADD 1          Y          30
C          Z-ADDCUREVN   REV,Y
C          ENDIF
C          ENDDO
C*
C** Now sum the total for this customer
C*
C          XFOOTREV      @TOTR  92
```

The value in @TOTR is now the grand total for the past 12 months or as many months the customer had. This is a much simpler way than adding to a grand total field inside the do loop.

XLATE / %XLATE - translates data in an alpha field when found in the "From" set to the "To" set.

As an example, lets say we want to convert a string from mixed or lower case to upper case. By defining the "from" value and the "to" value as constants, a single line of code will translate the string for you. Only characters found within the string that match characters found in the "From" set will be translated.

```
D UPPER          C          'ABCDEFGHJKLMNPQRSTUVWXYZ'
D LOWER          C          'abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz'
D DATA          S          10A      inz('Mixed Case')

/FREE

DATA = %XLATE(LOWER:UPPER:DATA)
// DATA now contains "MIXED CASE"
DATA = %XLATE(UPPER:LOWER:DATA:7)
// DATA now contains "MIXED case"

/END-FREE
```

The 7 in the third parameter is the starting position of the %XLATE function. The starting position is optional.

As another example, lets create a coma-delimited file that will export to the IFS from our customer file. If data within the customer file contained commas, this would cause the data to break where you don't expect.

If we wanted to remove any commas found in the customer address file to a "-", enter the following code:

```
/FREE
// DATA Contains "Rochester,MN 02546"
DATA = %XLATE(',':'-':DATA)
// DATA now contains "Rochester-MN 02546"
/END-FREE
```

If you submit a tip to tips@drewcorp.com, and it is selected for a TIP of the month, I may buy you a cup of coffee!!!! Please send comments of the types of tips you would like to see to Andy_Johnson@drewcorp.com.