

FORMAT/scanf style input parsing

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Lisp has read. Read is nice enough. However, since at least the time of fortran many computer languages have supported simple input parsing based on the same kinds of specifications used to generated formatted output. Witness C's scanf/printf, fortran's FORMAT, and C#'s IFormatProvider interface.

Has lisp ever had support for parsing based on some subset of format control-string language? The reason I ask is that after porting some old fortran in the recent past, I realize that i kind of miss having a way to conveniently parse moderately structured input. I know for extremely simple things there are libs like SPLIT-SEQUENCE, and cl-ppcre and parser generators for more complicated parsing. However, there is a sweet spot for parsers like FORMAT (not to mention the symmetry of notation).

Just curious,

Matt

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"You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother." – Albert Einstein.

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