

Re: lc() with undefined arg

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Perl/comp.lang.perl.misc/2005-08/msg00806.html>

- *From:* "Tassilo v. Parseval" <tassilo.von.parseval@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 13 Aug 2005 08:26:11 +0200
-

Also sprach Anno Siegel:

```
> Tassilo v. Parseval <tassilo.von.parseval@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in comp.lang.perl.misc:
>> Also sprach ced@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx:
>>
>> > Tassilo v. Parseval wrote:
>
> [...]
>
>> But I don't see how the functions mentioned in this thread fall into
>> this category. Meanwhile, I found one other builtin that wont warn on
>> undef: 'reverse' in scalar context.
>>
>> What is worse about these cases is the fact that after applying any of
>> these functions, the value is no longer undef but the empty string. In a
>> context of a program these two values might have a very different
>> meaning and silently transforming one into the other is wrong.
>
> That's only a consequence of some functions stringifying their argument,
> the same goes for hash keys. I wouldn't worry about it, a programmer
> doesn't expect a function like lc to return its argument unchanged. I think
> it's just a missing "uninitialized" warning -- add that and reverse and
> lc fit right in.
```

Yes, I am not worried about the empty string that is produced but the fact that it happens silently. When I get warnings about uninitialized values it's almost always a bug in my programs. So that's a warning I cannot do without.

Tassilo

```
use bigint;
$n=71423350343770280161397026330337371139054411854220053437565440;
$m=-8,;$_=$n&(0xff)<<$m,,$_>=$m,print+chr,while(($m+=8)<=200);
.
```

- *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **[Re: lc\(\) with undefined arg](#)**
◇ From: Len

• **References:**

- ◆ **[lc\(\) with undefined arg](#)**
◇ From: Len
 - ◆ **[Re: lc\(\) with undefined arg](#)**
◇ From: Tassilo v. Parseval
 - ◆ **[Re: lc\(\) with undefined arg](#)**
◇ From: ced@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
 - ◆ **[Re: lc\(\) with undefined arg](#)**
◇ From: Tassilo v. Parseval
 - ◆ **[Re: lc\(\) with undefined arg](#)**
◇ From: Anno Siegel
- Prev by Date: **[FAQ 3.20 How can I hide the source for my Perl program?](#)**
 - Next by Date: **[FAQ 4.23 How do I find matching/nesting anything?](#)**
 - Previous by thread: **[Re: lc\(\) with undefined arg](#)**
 - Next by thread: **[Re: lc\(\) with undefined arg](#)**
 - Index(es):
 - ◆ **[Date](#)**
 - ◆ **[Thread](#)**