

Re: Fixed Length Text Extract, Write to Excel

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Perl/perl.beginners/2004-01/0272.html>

From: Rob Dixon (rob_at_dixon.port995.com)

Date: 01/07/04

To: beginners@perl.org

Date: Wed, 7 Jan 2004 17:55:16 -0000

William Martell wrote:

>
> *I am trying to work with the code I have to extract fields from a text file*
> *report, and write the values into excel.*
>
> *I am having trouble.*
>
> *When I get to push @order_detail, %item*

Looking at your code, you mean

```
push @order_detail, \%item
```

> *I understand that this is pushing an associative array onto a list. (array*
> *of hashes)*
>
> *I am trying to write code that will open a new worksheet in excel and print*
> *the values of %item onto a row. When Perl encounters a certain key*
> *(cust_number), I would like it to start a new row.*
>
> *I have tried keys(), values(), pop() but I can't get it right. I think some*
> *of my trouble is b/c of the reference \%item. When I remove the reference*
> *backslash operator like this %item and type print. Perl returns with the*
> *contents in scalar.*
>
> *So. My main question is how do I access the values and keys of %item in*
> *@order_detail???*

Hi William.

You're building an array of hash references. To access a hash values from a given array element, write

```
my $cust_number = $order_detail[0]{cust_number}
```

To do the same for each detail record, do this

perl.beginners: Re: Fixed Length Text Extract, Write to Excel

```
foreach my $detail (@order_detail) {  
    my $cust_number = $detail->{cust_number};  
}
```

The value returned will be 'undef' if there is no such element for a given order detail record.

I hope this helps.

Rob