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Perl sprintf: How do I use sprintf in a perl script?

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Q. How do I use sprintf() function in a perl script under Linux or UNIX?

A. perl printf() function is use to format and print data on screen.

[1]

You need to use **sprintf** to print or store formatted data/string to a variable or to a string.

Also note that Perl does its own sprintf formatting--it emulates the C function sprintf, but it doesn't use it (except for floating-point numbers, and even then only the standard modifiers are allowed). As a result, any non-standard extensions in your local sprintf are not available from Perl.

perl printf() example

Following statement will round number to 2 digits after decimal point (type at shell prompt):

```
$ perl -e '$num=53535.35353535;printf ("Result = %.2f\n",$num);'
```

perl sprintf() example

Type following at shell prompt:

```
$ perl -e '$num=53535.35353535;$result=sprintf("Result = %.2f\\n",$num);print "$result"'
```

If you need to store output to a string / variable called $result you need to use sprintf(). Here is a small script to make you idea more clear:

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
$num=585858.64645;
$result = sprintf("%.2f", $num);
$now=sprintf("Today is ".`date`);
print "$result\\n";
print "$now\\n";
```

Note that variable $now and $result stores the formatted string. Refer this perl sprintf() [2] documentation for supported conversions, format parameter, flags etc.

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[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/perl/**
[2] this perl sprintf(): **http://perl.active-venture.com/pod/func/sprintf.html**

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