

String.prototype.padStart()

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to use the JavaScript String `padStart()` method to pad the beginning of a string with another string until the resulting string reaches a specified length.

Introduction to the JavaScript String `padStart()` method

The `padStart()` method allows you to pad the beginning of a string with another string until the resulting string reaches a certain length.

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```
.padStart(5, '0') → '00123'
```

Here's the syntax of the `padStart()` method:

```
string.padStart(targetLength, padString)
```

In this syntax:

- The `targetLength` is the length of the resulting string after the current string is padded. If the `targetLength` is less than or equal to the length of the input string, the method returns the input string as-is.
- The `padString` is an optional parameter, specifying the string to pad the current string with. If the `padString` is too long to stay within the target length, the `padStart()` method will truncate it. The `padString` defaults to a space character (' '). This means that the `padStart()` method will use a space character to pad the input string if you omit the `padString`.

To pad *the end* of a string with another string, you use the `padEnd()` method.

JavaScript `padStart()` method examples

Let's take some examples of using the `padStart()` method.

1) Basic JavaScript string `padStart()` method example

The following example uses the `padStart()` method to pad `"0"` to a string until it reaches 5 characters:

```
const results = ['120', '242', '10'].map((str) => {  
  return str.padStart(5, '0');  
});  
  
console.log({ results });
```

Output:

```
{ results: [ '00120', '00242', '00010' ] }
```

2) Formatting Numbers

In practice, you often use the `padStart` method for formatting numbers, especially when you need to ensure that numbers have a consistent length.

For example, you might want to format invoice numbers with 8 characters in length:

```
const invoiceNumbers = [1, 12, 123, 1234, 12345];  
  
const formattedInvoiceNumbers = invoiceNumbers.map((no) => {  
  return no.toString().padStart(8, '0');  
});  
  
console.log(formattedInvoiceNumbers);
```

Output:

```
[ '00000001', '00000012', '00000123', '00001234', '00012345' ]
```

3) Aligning Text in Console Output

When developing command-line interface (CLI) apps, you might want to align text for better readability. The `padStart` method can help you to achieve this:

```
let items = ['Apple', 'Banana', 'Cherry'];
items.forEach((item) => {
  console.log(item.padStart(20, '.'));
});
```

Output:

```
.....Apple
.....Banana
.....Cherry
```

Summary

- Use the `padStart()` method to pad the beginning of a string with another string until the resulting string reaches a specified length.