Sample *24716:* Replace unprintable characters from character variables with blanks

The sample code on the **Full Code** tab illustrates how to use character variable functions to remove nonprintable characters from character variables.

Note: This sample illustrates the NOTPRINT function, available in SAS® 9.0 and above, as well as the VERIFY function.

The VERIFY function is used to locate any byte that is not in the acceptable list of characters. Using the UPCASE function shortens the list by 26 alpha characters. Be sure to include valid punctuation, white space, and digits.

To test the VERIFY function, comment out the NOTPRINT logic and uncomment the VERIFY logic.

```
/* Create sample data */
/* The hex values 05, 0D, 0C, and 0A are all nonprintable printable characters on an ASCII operating system */

data sample;
   string='Your'||'05'x||'data'||'0D'x||'goes'||'0C'x||'here.'||'0A'x;
run;

data _null_;
   set sample;
   put 'Original string=' +1 string;

   /* Verify each byte in the string until no more nonprintables are found */
   do until(test=0);

      /* For SAS 9.0 and above, NOTPRINT */
      test=notprint(string);

      /* If a nonprintable is found...replace it with a space */
      if test>0 then do;
         substr(string,test,1)=' ';
      end;
   end;
   put 'Updated string=' +1 string;
run;
```

```
OUTPUT to SAS log

string=Your[]data
goes[]here.
```

```
string=Your data g
```

Use character variable functions to replace nonprintable characters from character variables with blanks.

Type: Sample

Topic: SAS Reference ==> DATA Step
SAS Reference ==> Functions ==> Character

Date Modified: 2007-11-07 14:40:09

Date Created: 2004-09-30 14:09:07

Operating System and Release Information

Product Family	Product	Host	SAS Release	
			Starting	Ending
SAS System	Base SAS	z/OS	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft® Windows® for 64-Bit Itanium-based Systems	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Datacenter 64-bit Edition	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Enterprise 64-bit Edition	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows 2000 Datacenter Server	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows 2000 Server	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows NT Workstation	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Datacenter Edition	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition	9 TS M0	
		Microsoft Windows XP Professional	9 TS M0	
		64-bit Enabled AIX	9 TS M0	
		64-bit Enabled HP-UX	9 TS M0	
		64-bit Enabled Solaris	9 TS M0	
		HP-UX IPF	9 TS M0	
		Linux	9 TS M0	
		OpenVMS Alpha	9 TS M0	
		Tru64 UNIX	9 TS M0	

About SAS
Discover our people, passion and forward-thinking technology

Accessibility
Empower people of all abilities with accessible software

Communities
Find your SAS answers with help from online communities

Customer Stories
Read about who's working smarter with SAS

Resource Center
Explore our extensive library of resources to stay informed

Solutions
Discover data, AI and analytics solutions for every industry

Blogs
Stay connected to people,

SUPPORT

Careers
Search for meaningful work in an award-winning culture

Industries
Get industry-specific analytics solutions for every need

Access documentation, tech support, tutorials and books

Certification
Validate your technology skills and advance your career

My SAS
Get access to software orders, trials and more

Training
Learn top-rated analytics skills required in today's market

Curiosity is our code. SAS analytics solutions transform data into intelligence, inspiring customers around the world to make bold new discoveries that drive progress.

SAS gives you THE POWER TO KNOW®.

Contact Us ❯

Follow Us

Privacy Statement

Terms of Use