Description:

If it is *non-nil*, it specifies the right margin (as *integer* number of *ems*) to use when the *pretty printer* is making layout decisions.

If it is **nil**, the right margin is taken to be the maximum line length such that output can be displayed without wraparound or truncation. If this cannot be determined, an *implementation-dependent* value is used.

Notes:

This measure is in units of *ems* in order to be compatible with *implementation-defined* variable-width fonts while still not requiring the language to provide support for fonts.

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print-not-readable *Condition Type*

Class Precedence List:

print-not-readable, **error**, **serious-condition**, **condition**, **t**

Description:

The *type* **print-not-readable** consists of error conditions that occur during output while ***print-readably*** is *true*, as a result of attempting to write a printed representation with the *Lisp printer* that would not be correctly read back with the *Lisp reader*. The object which could not be printed is initialized by the `:object` initialization argument to **make-condition**, and is *accessed* by the *function* **print-not-readable-object**.

See Also:

print-not-readable-object

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print-not-readable-object *Function*

Syntax:

print-not-readable-object *condition* → *object*

Arguments and Values:

condition—a *condition* of *type* **print-not-readable**.

object—an *object*.

Description:

Returns the *object* that could not be printed readably in the situation represented by *condition*.

See Also:

print-not-readable, Chapter 9 (Conditions)

---

format *Function*

Syntax:

format *destination control-string* `&rest` *args* → *result*

Arguments and Values:

destination—**nil**, **t**, a *stream*, or a *string* with a *fill pointer*.

control-string—a *format control*.

args—*format arguments* for *control-string*.

result—if *destination* is *non-nil*, then **nil**; otherwise, a *string*.

Description:

format produces formatted output by outputting the characters of *control-string* and observing that a *tilde* introduces a directive. The character after the tilde, possibly preceded by prefix parameters and modifiers, specifies what kind of formatting is desired. Most directives use one or more elements of *args* to create their output.

If *destination* is a *string*, a *stream*, or **t**, then the *result* is **nil**. Otherwise, the *result* is a *string* containing the 'output.'

format is useful for producing nicely formatted text, producing good-looking messages, and so on. **format** can generate and return a *string* or output to *destination*.

For details on how the *control-string* is interpreted, see Section 22.3 (Formatted Output).

Affected By:

standard-output, ***print-escape***, ***print-radix***, ***print-base***, ***print-circle***, ***print-pretty***, ***print-level***, ***print-length***, ***print-case***, ***print-gensym***, ***print-array***.

Exceptional Situations:

If *destination* is a *string* with a *fill pointer*, the consequences are undefined if destructive modifications are performed directly on the *string* during the *dynamic extent* of the call.

See Also:

write, Section 13.1.10 (Documentation of Implementation-Defined Scripts)
