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1.2.1 Supported format-placeholder types, e.g., "%d", but not %s

S...PrintfHost() only supports some format-placeholder types, e.g., %d, but not %s. The User Guide does not specify which ones are supported.

From testing, the supported types are listed below. There may be others.

- c : Character
- d : Signed decimal integer
- p: Pointer address
- u: Unsigned decimal integer
- x: Unsigned hexadecimal integer
- %: A % followed by another % character will write a single % to the output-string.

From testing, the types that are **not** supported are listed below. There may be others.

- **f**: Decimal floating point, lowercase
- F: Decimal floating point, uppercase (from static analysis, not tested)
- s: String of characters

1.2.2 Omitted error-checking

S...PrintfHost() doesn't provide syntax checking for its arguments. Also, the SystemView app doesn't appear to provide much syntax or error checking for the arguments it receives from S...PrintfHost(). A consequence is that when using S...PrintfHost() incorrectly, the S...PrintfHost() call will typically compile and run, but the SystemView app may display no data or incorrect data, or the app may crash. (In contrast, GCC's printf() will detect many errors at compile time.)

For example, "%f" and "%s" are not supported, but S...PrintfHost() does not indicate this when compiled and run. When "%s" are specified, only part of the provided data is sent by S...PrintfHost() to the SystemView app. It's not clear what the app does to process "%f" and "%s". The app may just ignore the format-placeholder, or it may attempt to format the data provided, even though only part of it is provided. For example, with %s, the app sometimes displays a few random characters for the string, but it usually displays nothing.

When S...PrintfHost () is used incorrectly, the SystemView app may display incorrect data. These are some examples:

- If "%f %d" is specified, the "%d" will display the data in the floating-point argument's second 4-bytes (for an 8-byte floating-point argument). (No indication is given that "%f" is not supported.)
- If "%d" is specified, and the argument provided for it is an unsigned int, an incorrect value may be displayed. (With GCC's printf(), a warning message is issued for such data-type mismatches.)
- If an argument is not provided for a format-placeholder (e.g., "%c"), then bogus argument-data is used, from the call-stack. (With GCC's printf(), a warning message is issued for such argument mismatches.)

1.3 Bugs in SEGGER_SYSVIEW_PrintfHost()

This section describes three known bugs in S...PrintfHost(). The work-arounds are obvious, so they are not described.

For context, S...PrintfHost() is implemented in SEGGER SYSVIEW.c. Most of the processing for S...PrintfHost() is done by the function VPrintHost().

1.3.1 The User-Guide omits needed info

• Bug: The SystemView User Guide omits info needed to use SEGGER SYSVIEW PrintfHost().

The User Guide has a very short section on S...PrintfHost(). As described earlier, the User Guide does not specify what format-placeholders are supported. Also, it doesn't specify how errors in argument-use are detected and processed. These omissions imply that the function works the same as printf(), but this is misleading, as there are significant differences with printf().

The User Guide describes S...PrintfHost()'s arguments in one sentence, but it is unclear. It states, "All format arguments are treated as 32-bit scalar values." ("Format arguments" is another term for formatspecifier arguments.) However, "treated as" is vague. It does not adequately describe what argument-types can be used, and how the arguments are processed and used.

For example, float-type variables are 4 bytes and scalar, but they are not supported. float-type arguments are expanded to 8 bytes when pushed on the call-stack. Internally, S...PrintfHost() is only able to correctly-process arguments that are 4-bytes on the call-stack. In contrast, char-type variables are 1 byte and scalar, and they are supported. They are expanded to 4 bytes when pushed on the call-stack.

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