



 AHELP for CIAO 3.4

sprintf

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Synopsis

Format objects into a string

Syntax

```
String sprintf (String format, ...);
String_Type Sprintf (String_Type format, ..., Integer_Type n)
```

Description

Both functions create a string based on the supplied format string and the remaining arguments to the call, in a similar manner to the C function `sprintf`.

The difference between the two routines is that `Sprintf` must also be sent the number of items to format (the `n` parameter above).

The format string is a C library `sprintf` style format descriptor. Briefly, the format string may consist of ordinary characters (not including the `%` character), which are copied into the output string as-is, and a conversion specification introduced by the `%` character. The `%` character must be followed by at least one other character to specify the conversion:

```
s    value is a string
f    value is a floating point number
e    print float in exponential form, e.g., 2.345e08
g    print float as e or g, depending upon its value
c    value is an ascii character
%    print the percent character
d    print a signed decimal integer
u    print an unsigned decimal integer
o    print an integer as octal
X    print an integer as hexadecimal
S    convert value to a string and format as string
```

Note that `%S` is a S-Lang extension which will cause the value to be formatted as string. In fact, `sprintf("%S",x)` is equivalent to `sprintf("%s",string(x))`.

Example 1

```
s = sprintf("%f is greater than %f but %s is better than %s\n", PI, E,  
"Cake" "Pie");
```

Example 2

```
s = Sprintf("%f is greater than %f but %s is better than %s\n", PI, E,  
"Cake" "Pie", 4);
```

The final argument to Sprintf is the number of items to format; in this case, there are 4 items.

See Also

slangrtl

[apropos](#), [_print_stack](#), [slang_guess_type](#), [char](#), [integer](#), [message](#), [pack](#), [putenv](#), [set_float_format](#), [scanf](#), [strcat](#), [string_verror](#), [vmessage](#)

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