AppleScript: Dates and Times Explained (10/94)

Article Created: 12 October 1994

TOPIC ---

Questions about coercing dates to string:

1) First, if we're trying to pluck the weekday out of a date as string, I can't use:

```
copy "9-Oct-94" to shortDate
copy (weekday of date shortDate) as string to dayOweek
```

get error "can't make Monday into a string"

2) Second, it seems confused about what class things are:

   "class of (date shortDate)" returns "date"

   "class of (weekday of date shortDate)" returns "class"

```
copy "9-Oct-94" to shortDate
copy date shortDate to longDate
copy weekday of longdate to Mydate
"display dialog (class of MyDate)" returns "pcls" but
"class of MyDate" returns "class
```

DISCUSSION ---

Dates can be difficult objects to work with in AppleScript.

With regards to the listed problems:

1.) AppleScript will display interpreted values with the script editor. To do extraction of strings on dates, get the whole date value converted as a string and then extract words of that string to get the date elements. The following is a working AppleScript example.

```
get current date
copy the result to today
copy today as string to DateString
-- "Monday, October 10, 1994 12:05:51 PM"
```

```
display dialog "Today is " & word 1 of DateString
display dialog "This month is " & word 2 of DateString
display dialog "This is day " & word 3 of DateString & " of  month " & word 2
of DateString
display dialog "The year is " & word 4 of DateString

set hr to word 5 of DateString
set mn to word 6 of DateString
set sc to word 7 of DateString
set AMPM to word 8 of DateString

display dialog "The time is " & hr & ":" & mn & ":" & sc & " " & AMPM
```

2.) What you see in the script editor log window is often an interpretation of
AppleScript's internal representation of the data. While AppleScript may be
representing something internally as an index or a number, it displays
something more meaningful for the observer to interpret. What you are seeing is
an example of this. Attempts to display class representations will show you the
four character AppleScript internal types.

Using the following AppleScript fragment, you can compile a table of some of
the AppleScript internal types.

```
(*
set x to "A" -- string
set x to 1 -- integer
set x to 1.5 -- real
set x to current date -- date
set x to false -- boolean
set x to {1, 2, "A"} -- list
set x to {text returned:"text entered", button returned:"OK"} -- record
set x to application -- class
*)

set x to {1, 2, "A"} -- list
display dialog (class of x)
get class of x
```

AppleScript expression	Internal type	Interpreted by Script Editor
"A"	TEXT	string
1	long	integer
1.5	doub	real
current date	ldt	date
true or false	bool	boolean
{1,2,"A"}	list	list
{fnm:"Doug",lnm:Korns"}	reco	record
application	pcls	class

Keywords: <None>

==

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 16505