

Banner 8:

UTF8 Conversion to ASCII



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AL32UTF-8 Character Set

Background

Banner 8 provides many international enhancements, including the AL32UTF-8 character set. This character set allows special characters, including letters from the Latin alphabet, and is supported across commonly used software applications and operating systems. For example, many popular web browser, e-mail, and word processing applications support the AL32UTF-8 character set.

What to Look For

The Western European Characters will be the only subset of the AL32UTF-8 character set that MSU Banner will accept, due to 3rd party vendors and applications. The Western European Languages include Albanian, Basque, Breton, Catalan, Cornish, Danish, Dutch, English, Faroese, French, Finnish, Frisian, Galician, German, Greenlandic, Icelandic, Irish Gaelic (new orthography), Italian, Luxemburgish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Rhaeto-Romanic, Scottish Gaelic, Spanish, Swedish (some Turkish).

If you enter non-western characters, they will be converted to symbols. If you have data loads containing non-western characters you will need to work with the vendor or develop a routine for converting the non-western characters.

AL32UTF-8 Character Set and ReportWeb

Background

The ReportWeb currently will not display AL32UTF8 characters. Though that is on the list to resolve, it is not presently scheduled to occur prior to Banner 8 conversion.

Any reports that are generated from the ReportWeb could potentially have AL32UTF8 characters in their output that will not display correctly. This will only affect a limited number of reports, and may be of no consequence. Reports containing AL32UTF8 non-western characters must be converted to ASCII to display letters instead of symbols for those characters.

What to Look For

Look for reports that have a '?' instead of a valid character. If you find a '?' character, contact the developer of the report, and explain that your report output needs to be forced to ASCII characters.

Converting AL32UTF-8 Reports to ASCII Output

Background

Conversion utilities (Oracle PL/SQL routines) that enable conversion from AL32UTF-8 characters to ASCII characters are available in the package GZKSTRNG. Code samples and detailed explanations can be found by describing the package GZKSTRNG (desc GZKRPTS, from within sqlplus or TOAD).

What to Look For

To enable report output to ASCII (or converted AL32UTF-8 to ASCII), a new method has been added to the GZKRPTS package in PG8TST. That method call can be added to the top of a report, to convert the output to ASCII. This will invoke the same routine that we are using to convert other files to ASCII from UTF-8. The intent is to provide a simple, easy-to-implement functionality for developers to use on the ReportWeb.

To convert report output to ASCII

Enter the statement `gzkrrpts.force_ascii_output()` to the top of the report prior to any `gzkrrpts.writeln()` statements.

For More Information

If you have questions about the AL32UTF8 character set or conversion to ASCII, please contact the appropriate Module Team Leader:

Finance	Dave Court	994-2704	dcourt@montana.edu
Human Resources	Paul Lindsay	994-3585	paul.lindsay@montana.edu
Student/Financial Aid	Mary DeGraw	994-4696	mary.degraw@montana.edu