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Stuartrc Format

The Stuartrc format is used for storage and transfer of key-value pairs, such as default values. The format is very similar to that used by the NeXT NXStringTable class. A short example of the Stuartrc format:

```
/* This would be a file specifying window defaults. */  
"Columns" = "100";           // Wider window on the right.  
"WinLocX" = "494";          # Positioned abutting the first.  
"WinLocY" = "297";
```

With keys on the left hand side of the equal sign, and values on the right. Keys and values are strings

specified in a C-like manner. Keys and their values are separated by an equal sign, with key-value pairs separated by semi-colons. Stuartrc allows for three commenting styles - traditional C-style comments (`/* ... */`), Objective-C-style comments (`// ... \n`), and shell-style comments (`# ... \n`). `\n` is the line separator, newline.

The format is very free-form. Whitespace is made up of newlines, spaces, tabs, and formfeeds, and has no meaning outside of strings, except newline termination of Objective-C-style and shell-style comments. Comments are treated as whitespace. Adjacent strings separated only by whitespace are

concatenated together. A contrived example:

```
"Col"  
"umns" = "100";
```

This would be identical to the `Columns' line in the first example.

Within strings, the backslash character, `\'', has special meaning as an escape character. Backslash can be used to insert non-display characters, characters specified by hexadecimal value, or double-quote or backslash itself. To put `\' within the string, use `\\', to put `"' within the string, use `\"'. To insert a character using a hexadecimal value, use `\'x??', where each of the `?' characters is replaced by a

hexadecimal digit. Both hex digits are required, and may be either upper or lower case for the digits `a'-'f'.

Staurtrc also knows a few C-style characters for use after the backslash. `\` is bell (BEL), `**` is backspace (BS), `\` is formfeed (FF), `\` is newline (NL), `\` is carriage return (CR), `\` is tab (TAB), and `\` is vertical tab (VT). As in C, an escape character before a newline within a string causes that newline to be omitted from the string.**

Note that the sequence `\

cause the string in question to be terminated at the point where the NUL was entered.

One difference between NXStringTable's format and the Stuartrc format is that with NXStringTable, if key has no value, then the value is considered to be equal to the key. In Stuartrc, the lack of a value is then considered to be NULL. This isn't the string `NULL`, but the complete absence of a string.