

The `cmdstring` Package

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Abstract

For programmers, it is quite common to use the *name* of a macro (for instance ‘foo’ for the macro `\foo`, in other words, the letters *f*, *o*, and *o*). For this purpose, it is customary to call `\string` which does this sort of things... except that it prepends the escape character, controlled by the counter `\escapechar`, in front of the name. The traditional ways of getting rid of it, is to set `\escapechar` to `-1` (without forgetting to restore the proper value at the end of the process) or to make use of `\@gobble`. The former has the drawback not to be expandible while the second isn’t completely reliable. Here we extend the expandible methods to make it reliable.

Use this package with

```
\usepackage{cmdstring}
```

or

```
\RequirePackage{cmdstring}
```

Then whatever the value of `\escapechar`, `\cmdstring` $\langle command \rangle$ will give correct result. For instance ‘`\cmdstring \documentclass`’ gives ‘`\documentclass`’; ‘`\cmdstring \`’ gives ‘`\`’; ‘`\cmdstring _`’ gives ‘`_`’, i.e., the command name without the escape character.

