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Subject: BUG+FIX: Problems with backslashes before quotes in getdata(\$where)  
Posted by [janalwin](#) on Mon, 18 Dec 2006 14:13:17 GMT

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I get an sql error when I do something like this: (it's testcode, so it doesn't make sense in a real situation)

```
$where="product_code='pc' AND user='testuser' AND test='test\\' AND active=1";  
$x=$dbobject->getData($where);
```

There's an escaped backslash directly before the quote (test='test\\').

I traced the problem back to the extractValue function in include.general.inc.

The extractValue function thinks that \\ means that the ' is escaped. This is not the case of course, the \ is escaped!.

I modified the extractValue function a bit:

- The function now searches for the delimiter or the delimiter with any number of backslashes before it.
- If the length of the found string is even, it has to be an escaped delimiter. So the function will search again to find the real delimiter.

ODD gives a not escaped quote (delimiter), examples: ', \', \\', etc...  
EVEN gives an escaped quote, examples, '\', '\\', '\\\\' etc..

I think this solves the problem. I hope someone can check my code for bugs and unexpected behaviour.

Here is the new code. Changes are marked with CHANGE JADJ  
function extractValue (&\$where)

```
// extract value from a WHERE string where the value is delimited by either  
// single or double quotes.  
// WARNING: any ending delimiter which is escaped must be ignored.  
// NOTE: $where is passed by reference so that it can be modified  
{
```

```
    // the first character is the delimiter (single or double quote)  
    $delimiter = substr($where, 0, 1);  
    if ($delimiter == "'" or $delimiter == '"' or $delimiter == ' ' or $delimiter == '(') {  
        // delimiter is valid  
    } else {  
        // no valid delimiter found, so use a space instead  
        $delimiter = ' ';  
    } // if
```

```
    // look for ending delimiter
```

```

if ($delimiter == "" or $delimiter == "'") {
    // delimiter may be escaped with preceeding '\'

    // CHANGE JADJ
    //$pattern = '/(\\\' . $delimiter .'|' . $delimiter .')/';
    $pattern = '/(\\\'+' . $delimiter .'|' . $delimiter .')/';

    } elseif ($delimiter == ' ') {
        $pattern = "/ /";
    } else {
        // look for closing parenthesis
        $pattern = "\)/";
    } // if

if (preg_match($pattern, $where, $regs, PREG_OFFSET_CAPTURE, 1)) {
    $found = $regs[0][0];
    $endpos = $regs[0][1];

    // CHANGE JADJ
    // check if length of found is odd or even..
    $odd_found_len=strlen($found) & 1;

    // CHANGE JADJ
    // length of found has to be odd if it's the end of the fieldvalue
    // So continue searching...
    while (!$odd_found_len) {
        // found an escaped delimiter, so ignore it
        // CHANGE JADJ
        preg_match($pattern, $where, $regs, PREG_OFFSET_CAPTURE, $endpos+
strlen($found));
        $found = $regs[0][0];
        $endpos = $regs[0][1];

        // CHANGE JADJ
        $odd_found_len=strlen($found) & 1;

    } // while

    // CHANGE JADJ
    // if we had a match we need another way to get the fieldvalue than in the old version
    // extract the string portion which exists between the two delimiters
    $fieldvalue = rtrim(substr($where, 0, $endpos + strlen($found)));
} else {
    // not found so....
    if ($delimiter == '(') {
        // add missing delimiter

```

```

    $where .= ');
  } // if
  // extract remainder of string
  $endpos = strlen($where);

  // CHANGE JADJ
  // Not found. We have to use the old way to get the fieldvalue
  // extract the string portion which exists between the two delimiters
  $fieldvalue = rtrim(substr($where, 0, $endpos + 1));
} // if

if (substr($fieldvalue, -1) == ')') {
  // last character is ')' so first character must be '('
  if (substr($fieldvalue, 0, 1) != '(') {
    // no match found, so remove trailing ')'
    $fieldvalue = substr($fieldvalue, 0, -1);
  } // if
} // if
// remove $fieldvalue from the front of the string
$where = substr($where, strlen($fieldvalue));

return $fieldvalue;

} // extractValue

```

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Subject: Re: BUG+FIX: Problems with backslashes before quotes in  
 getdata(\$where)  
 Posted by [AJM](#) on Mon, 18 Dec 2006 16:12:39 GMT  
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This is a very obscure problem that will only affect those who have a string field which terminates with a backslash, as in 'test\', which is most unusual. I have tried it with 'test\test' and this does not cause a problem.

I will take a look at your code and include a fix in the next release.

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Subject: Re: BUG+FIX: Problems with backslashes before qoutes in  
getdata(\$where)

Posted by [janalwin](#) on Mon, 18 Dec 2006 16:28:00 GMT

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I agree that it is an obscure problem. This is how i discovered it:

I use parts of the framework for the frontend of a website. I use the database with validation, not the template part. I use the complete framework for the backend of the site.

A user tried to log in to the frontend of de site and made a typo in his username. He accidentally typed a backslash at the end of his username. I got a mail with a strange error from the system and started to investigate the problem....

The system is running for a few months now and this error has never occured before.

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Jan Alwin de Jong

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Subject: Re: BUG+FIX: Problems with backslashes before qoutes in  
getdata(\$where)

Posted by [AJM](#) on Mon, 18 Dec 2006 16:42:48 GMT

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It's just like a ham-fisted user to case a problem.

I can test for many things, but the old chair-to-keyboard-interface gets me every time. Oh well, back to the drawing board.

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