

ST1ST\$ - Index of First Character in Text String

The ST1ST\$ routine returns the index of the first significant characters in a text string.

1. Invocation

To obtain the index of the first significant character in a text string code:

```
CALL ST1ST$ USING string length [retlen]
```

where *string* is a PIC X(n) field containing the text string, *length* is a PIC 9(4) COMP or literal containing the length of the PIC X(n) field and *retlen* is an optional PIC 9(4) COMP into which the index of the first significant character is returned. If *retlen* is omitted the index of the first significant character is returned in *length*, which must not be a literal if the 2 parameter form of this sub-routine is invoked.

2. STOP Codes and Exception Conditions

The following STOP codes may be generated by ST1ST\$:

STOP code	Description
9601	Internal error in ST1ST\$
9602	A string length of 0 has been passed

No exception conditions are returned by ST1ST\$.

3. Programming Notes

ST1ST\$ is only available with GSM SP-38, or later.

ST1ST\$ returns the index of the first significant character in a text string, where any character higher than ASCII SPACE (i.e. #20) is considered significant.

If the string does not contain any characters higher than ASCII SPACE then a result of 0 will be returned.

ST1ST\$ scans the string **forwards** searching for the **first** character higher than #20.

The standard SCAN verb can also be used to determine the first significant character in a text string but requires the string to be followed by a unique terminator character which may not always be convenient. For example:

```

01  STRING_AND_TERM
02  STRING PIC X(n)
02  TERMINATOR PIC X
    VALUE #FF * terminator byte

01  TC
02  TCKEYL PIC 9(2) COMP * Key length
    VALUE 1
02  TCTERM PIC X * Terminator byte
    VALUE #FF
02  TCINDEX PIC 9(4) COMP * Returned index

SCAN TC STRING_AND_TERM "!" * scan for 1st "!" or higher
```

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```
ON EXCEPTION                                * String has no chars "!" or higher
ELSE
    * index of 1st non-SPACE returned in TCINDEX.
END
```

4. Examples

The following example will return a length of 3 in Z-LEN2:

```
PROGRAM STLEN
DATA DIVISION
*
77      X-TEST  PIC X(20)
        VALUE  " test  "
        VALUE  #00
77      Z-LEN1  PIC 9(4) COMP
        VALUE  20
77      Z-LEN2  PIC 9(4) COMP
*
PROCEDURE DIVISION
*
        CALL ST1ST$ USING X-TEST Z-LEN1 Z-LEN2
```

5. Copy-Books

None.

6. See Also

STSIG\$ Return Number of Significant Characters in Text String
ST1ST\$ Return Index of First Significant Character of a Text String