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[Mike Kadow](#) · Jun 11, 2016 2m read

NewBie's Corner Session 7 True and False

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Welcome to NewBie's Corner, a weekly or biweekly post covering basic Caché Material.

Click on the Caché Cube in your system tray and select Terminal to try out these commands.

In COS, a 0 is false and any other number (positive or negative) is true.

Set X=1

If X Write "True" ; 1 is true and 0 is false

True

Set X=0

If X Write "True" ; 0 is false

<>

Set X=10

If X Write "True" ; Any number other than 0 is true

True

Set X=-10

If X Write "True" ; Any number other than 0 is true, even negative ones

True

Set X="1"

If X Write "True" ; 1 is true even in alphanumeric text

True

Set X="0"

If X Write "True" ; 0 is false in alphanumeric text

<>

Set X="01"

If X Write "True" ; Some of these are tricky

True

Set X="1ABC"

If X Write "True" ; The 1 is used and the rest of the text is ignored

True

Set X="0ABC"

If X Write "True" ; The first numeric is used and the rest of the text is ignored

<>

Set X="ABC1" ; If the numeric is not the first character,

If X Write "True" ; the whole string is ignored

<>

True and False with alphanumeric text

- When alphanumeric text (quoted string) contains only a numeric it is evaluated as pure numeric
- When alphanumeric text (quoted string) has as its first characters a numeric, the numeric is used as a pure numeric, and the rest of the alphanumeric text is ignored
- When alphanumeric text (quoted string) has as its first characters an alpha character, the whole string is evaluated as 0 or false

I suggest you spend some time on the Terminal trying some of these combinations. They are not always as obvious as you think.

--Mike Kadow

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If you have a comment, please respond through the InterSystems Developer Community, don't send me private email. Unless of course you wish to address me only.

See [NewBie Index](#) for an index of all NewBie Corner posts.

[#Terminal](#) [#Cache](#)

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