Arrays

Basics

Arrays in RouterOS can be normal indexed arrays or associative (key/value pair arrays).

Array element separator is the semi-colon.

```
# normal indexed example
{
  :local myArray { "ContainerLog"; "ContainerDebug" }
  :foreach e in=$myArray do={ :put $e }
}
```

```
# key-value example
{
  :local myArray { a="ContainerLog"; b="ContainerDebug" }
  :foreach k,v in=$myArray do={ :put "$k -> $v" }
}
```

Create empty array and adding entries

Two ways to create an empty array:

```
{
:put "Creating and adding to global emptyArray1";
:global emptyArray1 [{}];
:set emptyArray1 ($emptyArray1, 1);
:set emptyArray1 ($emptyArray1, 2);

:put "Creating and adding to global emptyArray2";
:global emptyArray2 [:toarray ""];
:set emptyArray2 ($emptyArray2, 1);
:set emptyArray2 ($emptyArray2, 2);
```

```
:put "Printing environment:";
:env print;

:put "Putting arrays:";
:put $emptyArray1;
:put $emptyArray2;
}
```

The output of the above code is:

```
Creating and adding to global emptyArray1
Creating and adding to global emptyArray2
Printing environment:
emptyArray1={1; 2}
emptyArray2={1; 2}
tmp1=[]
tmp2={}

Putting arrays:
1;2
1;2
```

Using a regular array:

```
{
:local array1 [:toarray ""];
:set array1 ($array1, "entry1");
:set array1 ($array1, "entry2");
:put ("array1: " . [:tostr $array1]);
}
```

Using an associative array (key / value pairs):

```
# without quotes around variable in set statement
{
:local array2 [:toarray ""];
:set ($array2->"entry1") 1;
:set ($array2->"entry2") 2;
:put ("array2: " . [:tostr $array2]);
}
```

```
# with quotes around variable in set statement
{
:local array2 [:toarray ""];
:set ("$array2"->"entry1") 1;
:set ("$array2"->"entry2") 2;
:put ("array2: " . [:tostr $array2]);
}
```

Indexed array

```
# define a variable to play with
:global array1

# a normal array with no keys
:set array1 {1;2}

# referencing an array by index
:put ($array1->0)
:put ($array1->1)

# iterate over each element with for
:for x from=0 to=[:len $array1] step=1 do={
  :put ($array1->$x)
}

# iterate over each element with foreach
:foreach a in=$array1 do={
  :put $a
}
```

Associative (key/value pair) arrays

```
# define a variable to play with
:global array1

# an associative array, or key/value pairs
:set array1 {a=1;b=2}
```

```
# referencing an array value by key
:put ($array1->"a")
:put ($array1->"b")

# iterate over each pair
:foreach k,v in=$array1 do={
  :put ($k . " -> " . $v)
}
```

:tostr

Sometimes RouterOS returns a value in a format that you're not expecting, and strange things will happen because you don't understand how RouterOS is handing you data. This primarily happens when you think RouterOS is going to give you a string, but its actually giving you an array.

If you run values through ***:tostr*** before using them, fewer unexpected things will happen to your script.

The example below shows us getting the neighbor interface for a specific device. If the interface is a member of a bridge, the result we get looks like "[bridge_port_name];[bridge_interface_name]" when using ***:put***. If the interface is not part of a bridge, the result we get looks like "[interface_name]" when using ***:put***. If you were to save that result to a global variable, and then do ***:env print*** you'll see that what we received both times is actually being stored as an array {"ether5";"bridge-lan"} and {"ether5"} respectively.

When you use :put with a variable that is storing an array, interesting things can happen, as you can see in the example OUTPUT.

```
# find the neighbor we want some information about
:global neighbor [/ip neighbor get [find where address=192.168.91.173]]

# get the local interface we're connected via
:global neighborLocalInterface [/ip neighbor get $neighbor interface]

# check the result... using put, it looks like its a normal string
:put $neighborLocalInterface
# OUTPUT: ether5;bridge-lane

# check the type - it's actually an array
:put [:typeof $neighborLocalInterface]
# OUTPUT: array
```

```
# verify that through environment print
:environment print
# OUTPUT: str={"ether5"; "bridge-lan"}

# here's something strange that happens if you print without tostr
:put ("interface: $neighborLocalInterface")
# OUTPUT: interface: ether5;interface: bridge-lan

# here's what we were expecting to see, thanks to the use of :tostr
:put ("interface: $[:tosr $neighborLocalInterface]")
# OUTPUT: interface: ether5;bridge-lan
```

Notice the output of the :put on line 20 has some unexpected content.

Playing with arrays

```
# MSHARP 20180827
# Playing with arrays
# Lesson learned: You cannot mix using keys and not using keys in the same array, even a
multi-dimensional one.

{
:local a1 {0}
:local count 0

:put "============================================================="
:put "Testing the handling of a single dimmension array with no keys"
:set a1 {1;2}
:put "Putting the full array:"
:put $a1
:put "Putting array elements in a foreach loop:"
:set count 0
:foreach i in=$a1 do={
  :put $i
  :set count ($count + 1)
}
:put "count:$count"
:put "====================="
```

```
:put "Putting array elements in a foreach loop using keys:"
:set count 0
:foreach k,v in=$a1 do={
  :put ($k . " - " . $v)
  :set count ($count + 1)
}
:put "count:$count"
:put "============================================================="

:put "Testing the handling of a single dimmension array with keys"
:set a1 {a=1;b=2}
:put "Putting the full array:"
:put $a1
:put "Putting array elements in a foreach loop without using keys:"
:set count 0
:foreach i in=$a1 do={
  :put $i
  :set count ($count + 1)
}
:put "count:$count"
:put "====================="
:put "Putting array elements in a foreach loop using keys:"
:set count 0
:foreach k,v in=$a1 do={
  :put ($k . " - " . $v)
  :set count ($count + 1)
}
:put "count:$count"
:put "============================================================="

:put "Testing the handling of a multi-dimensional array using no keys"
:set a1 {{1;2};{3;4}}
:put "Putting the full multi-dimensional array:"
:put $a1
:foreach i in=$a1 do={
  :put "Putting one of the sub-arrays:"
  :put $i
  :put "Putting the items in the array individually:"
  :set count 0
  :foreach k in=$i do={
```

```
    :put $k
    :set count ($count + 1)
  }
  :put "count:$count"
  :put "Putting the key - value pairs of the array"
  :set count 0
  :foreach k,v in=$i do={
    :put ($k . " - " . $v)
    :set count ($count + 1)
  }
  :put "count:$count"
  :put "====================="
}
:put "============================================================="

:put "Testing the handling of a multi-dimensional array using keys"
:set a1 {{a=1;b=2};{c=3;d=4}}
:put "Putting the full multi-dimensional array:"
:put $a1
:foreach i in=$a1 do={
  :put "Putting one of the sub-arrays:"
  :put $i
  :put "Putting the items in the array individually:"
  :set count 0
  :foreach k in=$i do={
    :put $k
    :set count ($count + 1)
  }
  :put "count:$count"
  :put "Putting the key - value pairs of the array"
  :set count 0
  :foreach k,v in=$i do={
    :put ($k . " - " . $v)
    :set count ($count + 1)
  }
  :put "count:$count"
  :put "====================="
}
:put "============================================================="
```

```
:put "Testing the handling of a multi-dimensional array, one subarray not using keys and the
using keys."
:put "Notice that mixing keys and no keys does not work properly."
:set a1 {{1;2};{c=3;d=4}}
:put "Putting the full multi-dimensional array:"
:put $a1
:foreach i in=$a1 do={
  :put "Putting one of the sub-arrays:"
  :put $i
  :put "Putting the items in the array individually:"
  :set count 0
  :foreach k in=$i do={
    :put $k
    :set count ($count + 1)
  }
  :put "count:$count"
  :put "Putting the key - value pairs of the array"
  :set count 0
  :foreach k,v in=$i do={
    :put ($k . " - " . $v)
    :set count ($count + 1)
  }
  :put "count:$count"
  :put "====================="
}
:put "============================================================="

#END
}
```

#end

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