

# Generating initials from a name is trickier than you think

---

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20080108-01](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20080108-01)

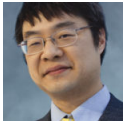
January 8, 2008



Raymond Chen

Even though I'm signed in, the page claims that anonymous comments are not allowed, so I'm reduced to posting my comment here and generating a [trackback](#). [Some time ago](#), [Robert McLaws](#) wrote a [function that generates initials from a name](#). Let's set aside completely the issue of non-U.S. names; the function doesn't even handle U.S. names correctly.

Given *Cal Ripken, Jr.*, the function comes up with the initials *JCR*, which is decidedly suboptimal.



[Raymond Chen](#)

**Follow**