

**First Southern African Regional ACM
Collegiate Programming Competition
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Problem 6/Red Balloons: Tabbifying

Saturday 18 September 1999

A database has produced a file of student names in a nicely lined up format, but with spaces between the 'columns' as follows:

9500410	WEST	TREVOR CHARLES	twest	F01	LF01
9609020	BOND	STEVEN	sbond	F01	LF01
9613959	CHEUNG	ELLEN	echeung	F01	
9611111	ARVIND		arvind	F01	LF07

The file needs to be translated into a tab-delimited format for importing into a spreadsheet. In the output, there must only be five columns separated by tabs — the fifth input field, which is always F01, is dropped. The third column, consisting of the first names and initials of the students, may contain spaces and other characters. The last column (lab choice) might be empty.

Write a program to read a file of such data and produce it tab delimited, as follows (where the equal sign stands for a tab). There must be no unnecessary spaces left in the columns.

```
9500410=WEST=TREVOR CHARLES=twest=LF01
9609020=BOND=STEVEN=sbond=LF01
9613959=CHEUNG=ELLEN=echeung=
9611111=ARVIND==arvind=LF07
```