LiveCode 7.0.0-dp-7 Release Notes

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Previous Release Notes
Overview

The LiveCode engine has undergone a large quantity of changes for the 7.0 release. The way values of variables are stored internally has been changed - in particular where before the engine used C-strings, it now uses a reference counted MCStringRef type. Every bit of code that displays text in LiveCode has been updated, and all the platform-specific API functions that manipulate characters now use the Unicode versions; as a result LiveCode is now fully Unicode compatible.

The other significant change to engine internals is the work done on syntax refactoring. The code that deals with statement execution, function evaluation and property access has been cleaned up and separated out from the parsing code, and moved into distinct modules based on functionality. This represents a major first step towards being able to implement Open Language.

Known issues

Every effort has been made to ensure that externally, the engine behaviour is identical to the current unrefactored release. In other words, users should not notice any difference in functionality in their existing stacks. However, users will notice a general slow-down caused by lack of optimisation in this release - this will be addressed for DP 2.

- The installer will currently fail if you run it from a network share on Windows. Please copy the installer to a local disk before launching on this platform.
- The engine files are much larger than previous versions due to inclusion of ICU data
- LiveCode does not run correctly when installed to Unicode paths on OSX
- On Windows, executing LiveCode from the installer fails as it cannot find the IDE
- Android app label is not yet Unicode compatible
- Auto-updater process doesn't terminate when dismissed

Platform support

The engine supports a variety of operating systems and versions. This section describes the platforms that we ensure the engine runs on without issue (although in some cases with reduced functionality).

Windows

The engine supports the following Windows OSes:

- Windows XP SP2 and above
- Windows Server 2003
- Windows Vista SP1 and above (both 32-bit and 64-bit)
- Windows 7 (both 32-bit and 64-bit)
- Windows Server 2008
- Windows 8.x (Desktop)

Note: On 64-bit platforms the engine still runs as a 32-bit application through the WoW layer.

Linux

The linux engine requires the following:
- 32-bit installation, or a 64-bit linux distribution that has a 32-bit compatibility layer
- 2.4.x or later kernel
- X11R5 capable Xserver running locally on a 24-bit display
- glibc 2.3.2 or later
- gtk/gdk/glib (optional – required for native theme support)
- pango/xft
- lcms (optional – required for color profile support in JPEGs and PNGs)
- gksu (optional – required for elevate process support)

**Note:** The optional requirements (except for gksu and lcms) are also required by Firefox and Chrome, so if your linux distribution runs one of those, it will run the engine.

**Note:** If the optional requirements are not present then the engine will still run but the specified features will be disabled.

**Note:** LiveCode and standalones it builds may work on remote Xservers and in other bit-depths, however this mode of operation is not currently supported.

**Mac**

The Mac engine supports:

- 10.6.x (Snow Leopard) on Intel
- 10.7.x (Lion) on Intel
- 10.8.x (Mountain Lion) on Intel
- 10.9.x (Mavericks) on Intel

**Note:** The engine runs as a 32-bit application regardless of the capabilities of the underlying processor.
Setup

Installation

Each distinct version has its own complete folder – multiple versions will no longer install side-by-side: on Windows (and Linux), each distinct version will gain its own start menu (application menu) entry; on Mac, each distinct version will have its own app bundle.

The default location for the install on the different platforms when installing for 'all users' are:

- Windows: \x86 program files folder>/RunRev/ LiveCode 7.0.0-dp-7
- Linux: /opt/runrev/livecode-7.0.0-dp-7
- Mac: /Applications/ LiveCode 7.0.0-dp-7.app

The default location for the install on the different platforms when installing for 'this user' are:

- Windows: <user roaming app data folder>/RunRev/Components/LiveCode 7.0.0-dp-7
- Linux: ~/.runrev/components/livecode-7.0.0-dp-7
- Mac: ~/Applications/ LiveCode 7.0.0-dp-7.app

Note: If your linux distribution does not have the necessary support for authentication (gksu) then the installer will run without admin privileges so you will have to manually run it from an admin account to install into a privileged location.

Uninstallation

On Windows, the installer hooks into the standard Windows uninstall mechanism. This is accessible from the appropriate pane in the control panel.

On Mac, simply drag the app bundle to the Trash.

On Linux, the situation is currently less than ideal:

- open a terminal
- cd to the folder containing your rev install. e.g.

  cd /opt/runrev/livecode-7.0.0-dp-7

- execute the .setup.x86 file. i.e.

  ./setup.x86

- follow the on-screen instructions.

Reporting installer issues

If you find that the installer fails to work for you then please file a bug report in the RQCC or email support@runrev.com so we can look into the problem.

In the case of failed install it is vitally important that you include the following information:

- Your platform and operating system version
- The location of your home/user folder
- The type of user account you are using (guest, restricted, admin etc.)
- The installer log file located as follows:
  - Windows 2000/XP: <documents and settings folder>/<user>/Local Settings/
• **Windows Vista/7:** `<users_folder>/<user>/AppData/Local/RunRev/Logs`
• **Linux:** `<home>/.runrev/logs`
• **Mac:** `<home>/Library/Application Support/Logs/RunRev`

**Activation**

The licensing system ties your product licenses to a customer account system, meaning that you no longer have to worry about finding a license key after installing a new copy of LiveCode. Instead, you simply have to enter your email address and password that has been registered with our customer account system and your license key will be retrieved automatically.

Alternatively it is possible to activate the product via the use of a specially encrypted license file. These will be available for download from the customer center after logging into your account. This method will allow the product to be installed on machines that do not have access to the internet.

**Multi-user and network install support (4.5.3)**

In order to better support institutions needing to both deploy the IDE to many machines and to license them for all users on a given machine, a number of facilities have been added which are accessible by using the command-line.

**Note:** These features are intended for use by IT administrators for the purposes of deploying LiveCode in multi-user situations. They are not supported for general use.

**Command-line installation**

It is possible to invoke the installer from the command-line on both Mac and Windows. When invoked in this fashion, no GUI will be displayed, configuration being supplied by arguments passed to the installer.

On both platforms, the command is of the following form:

```
<exe> install noui options
```

Here `options` is optional and consists of one or more of the following:

- `allusers` Install the IDE for all users. If not specified, the install will be done for the current user only.
- `desktopshortcut` Place a shortcut on the Desktop (Windows-only)
- `startmenu` Place shortcuts in the Start Menu (Windows-only)
- `location location` The location to install into. If not specified, the location defaults to those described in the **Layout** section above.
- `log logfile` A file to place a log of all actions in. If not specified, no log is generated.

Note that the command-line variant of the installer does not do any authentication. Thus, if you wish to install to an admin-only location you will need to be running as administrator before executing the command.

As the installer is actually a GUI application, it needs to be run slightly differently from other command-line programs.

In what follows `<installerexe>` should be replaced with the path of the installer executable or app (inside the DMG) that has been downloaded.

On Windows, you need to do:

```
start /wait <installerexe> install noui options
```
On Mac, you need to do:

```
"<installerexe>/Contents/MacOS/installer" install noui options
```

On both platforms, the result of the installation will be written to the console.

**Command-line activation**

In a similar vein to installation, it is possible to activate an installation of LiveCode for all-users of that machine by using the command-line. When invoked in this fashion, no GUI will be displayed, activation being controlled by any arguments passed.

On both platforms, the command is of the form:

```
<exe> activate -file license -passphrase phrase
```

This command will load the manual activation file from `license`, decrypt it using the given `passphrase` and then install a license file for all users of the computer. Manual activation files can be downloaded from the 'My Products' section of the RunRev customer accounts area.

This action can be undone using the following command:

```
<exe> deactivate
```

Again, as the LiveCode executable is actually a GUI application it needs to be run slightly differently from other command-line programs.

In what follows `<livecodeexe>` should be replaced with the path to the installed LiveCode executable or app that has been previously installed.

On Windows, you need to do:

```
start /wait <livecodeexe> activate -file license -passphrase phrase
start /wait <livecodeexe> deactivate
```

On Mac, you need to do:

```
"<livecodeexe>/Contents/MacOS/LiveCode" activate -file license -passphrase phrase
"<livecodeexe>/Contents/MacOS/LiveCode" deactivate
```

On both platforms, the result of the activation will be written to the console.

**Proposed changes**

The following changes are likely to occur in the next or subsequent non-maintenance release:

- The engine (both IDE and standalone) **will require** gtk, gdk and glib on Linux
Engine changes

Multimedia on MacOS with AVFoundation (7.0.0-dp-7)

What has changed?

The player object until now used QuickTime/QTKit APIs for audio and video playback. Since both QuickTime and QTKit have been deprecated by Apple, we have updated the player to use the new AVFoundation API. AVFoundation does not provide a controller for multimedia playback until OSX 10.9 and their new control bar is also missing some of the features provided by the QTKit controller, which required us to implement our own controller to ensure backward compatibility.

We have added two new properties to the player object enabling you to customise the appearance of the controller:

- The **hilitecolor** of a player is the color of the played area, the colour of the volume area, as well as the background color of a controller button when it is pressed.

- The **forecolor** of a player is the color of the selected area. The selected area is the area between the selection handles.

Note AVFoundation player is supported in OSX 10.8 and above. On systems running OSX 10.6 and 10.7, LiveCode continues to provide player functionality using the QTKit API.

Nine-way stretch for images (7.0.0-dp-7)

You can now set 'the centerRect' property of an image. This property should be a rectangle, with co-ordinates relative to the formattedRect of the image. The property specifies the area of the image that should be stretched when the image is scaled. For example, if the centerRect of an image which is 16x16 is set to 4,4,12,12 then:

- The 4x4 corner portions of the image will not be stretched
- The top 4x8 and 8x4 side portions of the image will be stretched horizontally or vertically (depending on orientation)
- The middle 8x8 area will stretch to fill the middle.

This property is useful for using images as backgrounds to buttons and interface elements - allowing a non-stretched border with stretched interior to be specified.

Updated text rendering for iOS and OS X (7.0.0-dp-7)

In order to improve performance, the text rendering routines for iOS and OS X and been updated to use the latest APIs. This has had a significant improvement in the text rendering speed, particularly on OS X.

It's worth noting that the previous OS X routines used synthesised font styles. That is, bold and italic styles were emulated (by slanting or thickening) if the font being rendered was not bold or italic. This is not the case for the new routines. If there is not a font present on the system with the given style, the plain alternative will be used.

The is the case with the default font - Lucida Grande. By default, systems only come with the bold variant. Thus, if you have a field with the default font and italic style, it will be rendered in plain style.

As part of LiveCodes progression toward unicode, the use of older symbol fonts is no longer fully supported. In order to ensure symbol fonts are drawn correctly, the font must be unicode encoded. The fonts that come
with the latest versions of OS X are all unicode encoded.

**Effective points of graphics (7.0.0-dp-7)**

You can now use 'the effective points' and 'the effective relativePoints' properties of a graphic object to fetch a polygon representation of rectangle, round rectangle and regular polygon graphic objects.

**Export snapshot with metadata (7.0.0-dp-7)**

An optional

```
with metadata <metadata array>
```

clause has been added to the

```
export snapshot
```

command. Currently the only metadata key that is implemented is

```
density
```

which can be used to include pixel density metadata in pixels per inch.

For example:

```
put 144 into theMetadataA["density"]
```

```
export snapshot of group 1 at size the width of group 1 2, the height of group 1 2 with metadata
theMetadataA
```

**New variant of open and secure socket (7.0.0-dp-7)**

New variants of open and secure socket have been added:

```
open secure socket socket with verification for host host
```

```
secure socket socket with verification for host host
```

The new host parameter allows the user to specify the host name the connection should be verified against. This is particularly useful if server your socket is directly connected to is not the end host you are talking to. For example when tunnelling through a proxy to connect to a HTTPS URL.

**Multiple density image support for patterns. (7.0.0-dp-7)**

This extends the existing image resolution independence features to any pattern using that image. When an object pattern is set to a multiple density image, that pattern will automatically use the best source image for the density at which it is drawn.

**arrayDecode crashes on linux with certain input. (7.0.0-dp-7)**

After dragging onto a field when LiveCode is in the background, focus doesn't work properly until reset. (7.0.0-dp-7)
**QT-related features don't work. (7.0.0-dp-7)**

QT effects and sound recording will now work as long as 'dontUseQT' is set to false. In this case, the player will default to using QTKit.

If you are submitting an app to the Mac AppStore, or wish to use AVFoundation player on 10.8 and above, ensure that dontUseQT is set to true in your startup handler, or before any code or stack which uses QT is run.

**Objects which are adjacent don't necessarily appear so at non integral scale factors. (7.0.0-dp-7)**

At non-integral scale factors (such as 150% Hi-DPI mode on Windows), objects which should appear next to each other can have a visible channel.

This issue isn't completely fixable due to the nature of approximations used when compositing to the screen. However, this problem has been mitigated in a couple of ways - firstly antialiasing is forced on whenever the scale factor is non-integral; secondly clipping rectangles always fall on device pixel boundaries.

**Standalone engine still links to QTKit / QuickTime. (7.0.0-dp-7)**

**Don't draw tab characters (7.0.0-dp-7)**

**Queuing too many pending messages causes slowdown and random crashes. (7.0.0-dp-7)**

A limit on the number of user-defined pending messages (those created with 'send in time') has been imposed. If there are more than 64k messages in the pending message queue, 'send in time' will now throw an error when attempting to queue another one.

This limit has been imposed to prevent engine lock up and eventual instability due to memory exhaustion in the case that pending message loops cause rapid increases in the number of pending messages.

**Normal resizeQuality is slow (7.0.0-dp-7)**

As part of the update to image filters in the 6.6 release, we improved the quality of the resizing and rotating images when the resizeQuality was set to "normal". This brought all platforms into line with the way things were on Mac pre 6.5.

However, this change in image filter meant that resizing of images was more processor intensive and the resulting output was much smoother. As developers using the "normal" resizeQuality relied on the time and output of the resize operation, we've decided to temporarily revert the "normal" behavior back to how things were in 6.5.

This change is only temporary, with there being plans to fully address the issue in a future release where the resizeQuality options will undergo and overhaul in order to provide the developer with greater flexibility.

**Hebrew text is shown in reverse character order on Android (7.0.0-dp-7)**

This bug fix involved incorporating the HarfBuzz library in Android builds. In addition to resolving bugs related to RTL text display, this has also enabled support for complex text shaping, so that combinations of characters in complex scripts such as Arabic are displayed correctly.

**Inconsistencies in behavior when doing 'delete the selectedChunk'. (7.0.0-dp-7)**
The following should all operate the same way after selecting a line in a field by doing 'triple-click', or just selected the whole line without the paragraph break:

- pressing backspace
- executing 'delete the selectedChunk'
- executing 'get the selectedChunk; delete it'

Previously, 'delete the selectedChunk' would cause paragraph styles not to be set correctly on the resulting paragraph; or the paragraph break to be included when it should not be - this is no longer the case.

Previously, 'get / delete it' would only work correctly the first time the command was executed - this is no longer the case.

[[ Bugfix 12502 ]] Fix a null-pointer deref in PDF printin (7.0.0-dp-5)

Password protected stacks are corrupted by LiveCode 7 (7.0.0-dp-2)

Unicode Support (7.0.0-dp-1)

Unicode and LiveCode

Traditionally, computer systems have stored text as 8-bit bytes, with each byte representing a single character (for example, the letter 'A' might be stored as 65). This has the advantage of being very simple and space efficient whilst providing enough (256) different values to represent all the symbols that might be provided on a typewriter.

The flaw in this scheme becomes obvious fairly quickly: there are far more than 256 different characters in use in all the writing systems of the world, especially when East Asian ideographic languages are considered. But, in the pre-internet days, this was not a big problem.

LiveCode, as a product first created before the rise of the internet, also adopted the 8-bit character sets of the platforms it ran on (which also meant that each platform used a different character set: MacRoman on Apple devices, CP1252 on Windows and ISO-8859-1 on Linux and Solaris). LiveCode terms these character encodings "native" encodings.

In order to overcome the limitations of 8-bit character sets, the Unicode Consortium was formed. This group aims to assign a unique numerical value ("codepoint") to each symbol used in every written language in use (and in a number that are no longer used!). Unfortunately, this means that a single byte cannot represent any possible character.

The solution to this is to use multiple bytes to encode Unicode characters and there are a number of schemes for doing so. Some of these schemes can be quite complex, requiring a varying number of bytes for each character, depending on its codepoint.

LiveCode previously added support for the UTF-16 encoding for text stored in fields but this could be cumbersome to manipulate as the variable-length aspects of it were not handled transparently and it could only be used in limited contexts. Unicode could not be used in control names, directly in scripts or in many other places where it might be useful.

In LiveCode 7.0, the engine has been extensively re-written to be able to handle Unicode text transparently throughout. The standard text manipulation operations work on Unicode text without any additional effort on your part; Unicode text can now be used to name controls, stacks and other objects; menus containing Unicode selections no longer require tags to be usable - anywhere text is used, Unicode should work.

Adding this support has required some changes but these should be minor. Existing apps should continue to run with no changes but some tweaking may be required in order to adapt them for full Unicode support -
this is described in the next section - Creating Unicode Apps.

Creating Unicode Apps

Creating stacks that support Unicode is no more difficult than creating any other stack but there are a few things that should be borne in mind when developing with Unicode. The most important of these is the difference between text and binary data - in previous versions of LiveCode, these could be used interchangeably; doing this with Unicode may not work as you expect (but it will continue to work for non-Unicode text).

When text is treated as binary data (i.e. when it is written to a file, process, socket or other object outside of the LiveCode engine) it will lose its Unicode-ness: it will automatically be converted into the platform's 8-bit native character set and any Unicode characters that cannot be correctly represented will be converted into question mark '?' characters.

Similarly, treating binary data as text will interpret it as native text and won't support Unicode.

To avoid this loss of data, text should be explicitly encoded into binary data and decoded from binary data at these boundaries - this is done using the `textEncode` and `textDecode` functions (or its equivalents, such as opening a file using a specific encoding).

Unfortunately, the correct text encoding depends on the other programs that will be processing your data and cannot be automatically detected by the LiveCode engine. If in doubt, UTF-8 is often a good choice as it is widely supported by a number of text processing tools and is sometimes considered to be the "default" Unicode encoding.

New & Existing apps - things to look out for

- When dealing with binary data, you should use the `byte` chunk expression rather than `char - char` is intended for use with textual data and represents a single graphical character rather than an 8-bit unit.
- Try to avoid hard-coding assumptions based on your native language - the formatting of numbers or the correct direction for text layout, for example. LiveCode provides utilities to assist you with this.
- Regardless of visual direction, text in LiveCode is always in logical order - word 1 is always the first word; it does not depend on whether it appears at the left or the right.
- Even English text can contain Unicode characters - curly quotation marks, long and short dashes, accents on loanwords, currency symbols...

New Commands, Functions & Syntax

Chunk expressions: `byte, char, codepoint, codeunit`

`byte x to y of text` -- Returns bytes from a binary string
`char x to y of text` -- As a series of graphical units
`codepoint x to y of text` -- As a series of Unicode codepoints
`codeunit x to y of text` -- As a series of encoded units

A variety of new chunk types have been added to the LiveCode syntax to support the various methods of referring to the components of text. This set is only important to those implementing low-level functions and can be safely ignored by the majority of users.

The key change is that `byte` and `char` are no longer synonyms - a byte is strictly an 8-bit unit and can only be reliably used with binary data. For backwards compatibility, it returns the corresponding native character from Unicode text (or a '?' if not representable) but this behaviour is deprecated and should not be used in new code.
The char chunk type no longer means an 8-bit unit but instead refers to what would naturally be thought of as a single graphical character (even if it is composed of multiple sub-units, as in some accented text or Korean ideographs). Because of this change, it is inappropriate to use this type of chunk expression on binary data.

The codepoint chunk type allows access to the sequence of Unicode codepoints which make up the string. This allows direct access to the components that make up a character. For example, á can be encoded as (a,combining-acute-accent) so it is one character, but two codepoints (the two codepoints being a and combining-acute-accent).

The codeunit chunk type allows direct access to the UTF-16 code-units which notionally make up the internal storage of strings. The codeunit and codepoint chunk are the same if a string only contains unicode codepoints from the Basic Multilingual Plane. If, however, the string contains unicode codepoints from the Supplementary Planes, then such codepoints are represented as two codeunits (via the surrogate pair mechanism). The most important feature of the 'codeunit' chunk is that it guarantees constant time indexed access into a string (just as char did in previous engines) however it is not of general utility and should be reserved for use in scripts which need greater speed but do not need to process Supplementary Plane characters, or are able to do such processing themselves.

The hierarchy of these new and altered chunk types is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>byte</th>
<th>word</th>
<th>trueWord</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>char</td>
<td>sentence</td>
<td>paragraph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>codeunit</td>
<td>trueWord</td>
<td>line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>codepoint</td>
<td>item</td>
<td>paragraph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sentence and trueWord chunk expressions have been added to facilitate the processing of text, taking into account the different character sets and conventions used by various languages. They use the ICU library, which uses a large database of rules for its boundary analysis, to determine sentence and word breaks. ICU word breaks delimit not only whitespace but also individual punctuation characters; as a result the LiveCode trueWord chunk disregards any such substrings that contain no alphabetic or numeric characters.

The paragraph chunk is identical to the existing line chunk, except that it is also delimited by the Unicode paragraph separator (0x2029), which reflects paragraph breaking in LiveCode fields.

The hierarchy of these new chunk types is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>trueword</th>
<th>word</th>
<th>item</th>
<th>sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>paragraph</td>
<td>word</td>
<td>item</td>
<td>sentence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Synonym: segment

The segment chunk type has been added as a synonym to the existing word chunk. This in order to allow you to update your scripts to use the newer syntax in anticipation of a future change to make the behaviour of the word chunk match the new trueWord behaviour.

We would anticipate changing the meaning of word with our 'Open Language' project. It requires us to create a highly accurate script translation system to allow old scripts to be rewritten in new revised and cleaner syntax. It is at this point we can seriously think about changing the meaning of existing tokens, including word. Existing scripts will continue to run using the existing parser, and they can be converted (by the user) over time to use the newer syntax.

Property: the formSensitive

set the formSensitive to false -- Default value

This property is similar to the caseSensitive property in its behaviour - it controls how text with minor
Normalization is a process defined by the Unicode standard for removing minor encoding differences for a small set of characters and is more fully described in the `normalizeText` function.

**Command:** open file/process/socket ... for <encoding> text

`open file "log.txt" for utf-8 text read` -- Opens a file as UTF-8

Opens a file, process or socket for text I/O using the specified encoding. The encodings supported by this command are the same as those for the `textEncode` / `textDecode` functions. All text written to or read from the object will undergo the appropriate encoding/decoding operation automatically.

**Functions:** `textEncode`, `textDecode`

`textEncode(string, encoding)` -- Converts from text to binary data

`textDecode(binary, encoding)` -- Converts from binary data to text

Supported encodings are (currently):

- "ASCII"
- "ISO-8859-1" (Linux only)
- "MacRoman" (OSX only)
- "Native" (ISO-8859-1 on Linux, MacRoman on OSX, CP1252 Windows)
- "UTF-16"
- "UTF-16BE"
- "UTF-16LE"
- "UTF-32"
- "UTF-32BE"
- "UTF-32LE"
- "UTF-8"
- "CP1252" (Windows only)

Spelling variations are ignored when matching encoding strings (i.e all characters other than [a-zA-z0-9] are ignored in matches as are case differences).

It is very highly recommended that any time you interface with things outside LiveCode (files, network sockets, processes, etc) that you explicitly `textEncode` any text you send outside LiveCode and `textDecode` all text received into LiveCode. If this doesn't happen, a platform-dependent encoding will be used (which normally does not support Unicode text).

It is not, in general, possible to reliably auto-detect text encodings so please check the documentation for the programme you are communicating with to find out what it expects. If in doubt, try "UTF-8".

**Functions:** `numToCodepoint`, `codepointToNum`

`numToCodepoint(number)` -- Converts a Unicode codepoint to text

`codepointToNum(codepoint)` -- Converts a codepoint to an integer

These functions convert between the textual form of a Unicode character and its numerical identifier ("codepoint"). Codepoints are integers in the range 0x000000 to 0x10FFFF that identify Unicode characters. For example, the space (" ") character is 0x20 and "A" is 0x41.

The `codepointToNum` function raises an exception if the argument contains multiple codepoints; it should generally be used in the form:
The numToCodepoint function raises an exception if the given integer is out of range for Unicode codepoints (i.e. if it is negative or if it is greater than 0x10FFFF). Codepoints that are not currently assigned to characters by the latest Unicode standard are not considered to be invalid in order to ensure compatibility with future standards.

Functions: numToNativeChar, nativeCharToNum

numToNativeChar(number) -- Converts an 8-bit value to text
nativeCharToNum(character) -- Converts a character to an 8-bit value

These functions convert between text and native characters and are replacements for the deprecated numToChar and charToNum functions.

As the "native" character sets for each platform have a limited and different repertoire, these functions should not be used when preservation of Unicode text is desired. Any characters that cannot be mapped to the native character set are replaced with a question mark character ("?").

Unless needed for compatibility reasons, it is recommended that you use the numToCodepoint and codepointToNum functions instead.

Function: normalizeText

normalizeText(text, normalForm) -- Normalizes to the given form

The normalizeText function converts a text string into a specific 'normal form'.

Use the normalizeText function when you require a specific normal form of text.

In Unicode text, the same visual string can be represented by different character sequences. A prime example of this is precomposed characters and decomposed characters: an 'e' followed by a combining acute character is visually indistinguishable from a precombined 'é' character. Because of the confusion that can result, Unicode defined a number of "normal forms" that ensure that character representations are consistent.

The normal forms supported by this function are:

- "NFC" - precomposed
- "NFD" - decomposed
- "NFKC" - compatibility precomposed
- "NFKD" - compatibility decomposed

The "compatibility" normal forms are designed by the Unicode Consortium for dealing with certain legacy encodings and are not generally useful otherwise.

It should be noted that normalization does not avoid all problems with visually-identical characters; Unicode contains a number of characters that will (in the majority of fonts) be indistinguishable but are nonetheless completely different characters (a prime example of this is "M" and U+2164 "Ⅿ" ROMAN NUMERAL ONE THOUSAND).

Unless the formSensitive handler property is set to true, LiveCode ignores text normalization when performing comparisons (is, <>, etc).
Returns: the text normalized into the given form.

```
set the formSensitive to true

put "e" & numToCodepoint("0x301") into tExample -- Acute accent

put tExample is "é"     -- Returns false

put normalizeText(tExample, "NFC") is "é"  -- Returns true
```

**Function: codepointProperty**

```

codepointProperty("A", "Script") -- "Latin"
codepointProperty("β", "Uppercase") -- false
codepointProperty("σ", "Name") -- GREEK SMALL LETTER SIGMA
```

Retrieves a UCD character property of a Unicode codepoint.

The Unicode standard and the associated Unicode Character Database (UCD) define a series of properties for each codepoint in the Unicode standard. A number of these properties are used internally by the engine during text processing but it is also possible to query these properties directly using this function.

This function is not intended for general-purpose use; please use functions such as toUpper or the "is" operators instead.

There are many properties available; please see the version 6.3.0 of the Unicode standard, Chapter 4 and Section 5 of Unicode Technical Report (TR)#44 for details on the names and values of properties. Property names may be specified with either spaces or underscores and are not case-sensitive.

Examples of supported properties are:

- "Name" - Unique name for this codepoint
- "Numeric_Value" - Numerical value, e.g. 4 for "₄"
- "Quotation_Mark" - True if the codepoint is a quotation mark
- "Uppercase_Mapping" - Uppercase equivalent of the character
- "Lowercase" - True if the codepoint is lower-case

**Updated Functions**

**Function: binaryEncode**

A new letter has been introduced to allow one to binary encode unicode strings.

Following the dictionary definitions, it consists of:

```
u{<encoding>}: convert the input string to the encoding specified in the curly braces, and output up to amount bytes of the string created - stopping at the last encoded character fitting in the amount - padding with \0.

U{<encoding>}: convert the input string to the encoding specified in the curly braces, and output up to amount bytes of the string created - stopping at the last encoded character fitting in the amount - padding with encoded spaces, and then \0 if the last encoded space cannot fit within the amount specified.
```

The encoding, surrounded by curly braces, is optional - no one specified would default to the behaviour of 'a'
- and must match one of those applicable to textEncode

**Function: binaryDecode**

A new letter has been introduced to allow one to binary decode unicode strings. Following the dictionary definitions, it consists of:

u{<encoding>}: convert amount bytes of the input string to the specified encoding, padding with ‘\0’.

U{<encoding>}: converts amount bytes of the input to the specified encoding, skipping trailing spaces.

The encoding, surrounded by curly braces, is optional - no one specified would default to the behaviour of ‘a’ - and must match one of those applicable to textEncode

**Deprecated Features**

**Functions: numToChar, charToNum**

These functions should not be used in new code as they cannot correctly handle Unicode text.

**Property: useUnicode**

This property should not be used in new code, as it only affects the behaviour of numToChar and charToNum, which are themselves deprecated.

**Functions: uniEncode, uniDecode**

These functions should not be used in new code as their existing behaviour is incompatible with the new, transparent Unicode handling (the resulting value will be treated as binary data rather than text). These functions are only useful in combination with the also-deprecated unicode properties described below.

**Function: measureUnicodeText**

This function should not be used in new code. measureUnicodeText(tText) is equivalent to measureText(textDecode(tText, "UTF16")).

**Properties: unicodeText, unicodeLabel, unicodeTitle, unicodeTooltip, unicodePlainText, unicodeFormattedText**

These properties should not be used in new code; simply set the text, label, title etc. as normal. Assigning values other than those returned from uniEncode to these properties will not produce the desired results.

The following are now equivalent:

- set the unicodeText of field 1 to tText

- set the text of field 1 to textDecode(tText, "UTF16")

and similarly for the other unicode-prefixed properties.
Specific bug fixes (7.0.0-dp-7)
(bug fixes specific to the current build are highlighted in bold, reverted bug fixes are stricken through)

12841 Crash when switching to Chinese input method on Mac.
12835 Player: scaling a player down causes controller to get confused
12833 Player: hilite handles do not use fill length of the bar
12831 arrayDecode crashes on linux with certain input.
12826 answer file with type doesn’t work correctly if only one type is specified.
12824 Windows position in the wrong place when constrained by the windowBoundingRect.
12823 Selecting subsequent cells in a tabbed field results in incorrect highlighting
12818 [[Player]] Selection thumbs should not be visible when selection duration is 0
12817 [[Player]] Selection not created when clicking shift and dragging player thumb
12816 [[Player]] SelectionStart and SelectionFinish handles too large and can obscure player thumb
12815 [[Player]] Selection indicator does not align with the selection thumbs
12814 Setting textDirection should force field recalculation
12812 [[Player]] loop goes to beginning of movie not selection start time when playSelection is true
12810 [[Player]] controller icons not updated when keyboard shortcuts used to control playback
12809 [[Player]] put the tracks of player 1 does not work properly
12800 Go stack in window [windowId] doesn’t work.
12799 On Mac
12797 filter with regex not working
12795 'The number of elements of tVar' for non-array tVar hangs LC7
12794 The centerRect image property doesn’t handle hi-res images correctly
12793 Plugins don’t load in revBrowserCEF on OSX
12792 Pasting text from Text Edit into field creates gibberish
12790 Ctrl-m does not close the message box
12789 Clicking on stack listed in Application Browser causes crash
12780 IDE stacks white rather than grey
12778 Double clicking in the script editor doesn’t highlight words
12777 Copy command crashes in release mode
12773 After dragging onto a field when LiveCode is in the background
12769 setting dragData[files] does not work
12765 The effective rect of a stack with vscroll > 0 is incorrect
12763 Player: Setting player size to < 132 width breaks some controller elements
12761 Player: dragging the in selection hilite marker moves out marker also
12760 Player: setting the filename to a local file that doesn’t exist crashes LC
12759 Player: Setting the "in" marker for selection playback beyond the start point of player sets marker to unexpected value
12758 Player: setting the filename to a URL that isn’t a video crashes LC
12757 [[Player]] Selecting "track" from a players property inspector
12756 Player: Can’t select any audio files
12753 Player: Click outside of a selection allows video to be played outside selection
12751 QT-related features don’t work.
12750 Player: Progress circle and end hilite don’t light up
12747 Shortcuts: the uncomment script shortcut cmd _ does not work
12746 Player: First frame of video is not loaded immediately when filename is set
12745 Player: File chooser doesn't filter all available video formats
12737 Player: Can’t drag out or create a player in script
12733 Error when getting or setting char chunk properties of buttons
12731 Player: Hiding and showing resized player changes player size to original size
12722 Unable to use edit mode when video is playing with new player object
12721 keyUp keyname returns gibberish
12720 Focus gets confused if focus changes in response to a suspendStack message.
12719 zipalign tool not found during standalone build after update to Android SDK tools
12715 Incomplete stack drawing when opening stack with acceleratedRendering on retina display
12709 Project Explorer not updating after stack was changed to substack
12708 Submenus of popups don’t send menuPick on selection.
12705 Fix sending of mouseRelease messages with new platform layer
12702 Editing image then switching card and saving causes stack corruption
12701 CEF browser crashes if htmltext is set to empty
12700 Launch URL not working on LC7 in Android and iOS emulators
12699 Images don’t appear or are clipped when printed to PDF
12697 Setting tabStop less than the preceding one on a field causes text to overlap
12695 Android video does not display
12690 Some fonts have accents cut off on capital letters on Mac.
12688 Blocking socket calls always timeout.
12686 File and folder dialogs incorrectly use the topStack to sheet against
12676 Adding number to numeric value in variable gives incorrect result on LC7
12672 LC 7.0DP6 Crash on Save After Editing Large Script
12671 CEF browser pauses frequently when there is no other activity on the stack
12670 Extra mouseMove with incorrect co-ordinates sent after mouseEnter when changing windows.
12669 WebAuthenticationPanel class in OSX revbrowser conflicts with same class in WebKit library
12668 File handle leak on Mac
12659 Error on Android when reading files list from the stack folder path
12656 Decomposing native strings doesn't work
12651 back key can not work
12650 Copying externals files to android app fails
12648 Shell command does not accept spaces despite being quoted (Windows)
12647 Multiple moves created whilst lock moves in effect fail to be synchronized.
12646 Crash when fetching the alphadata of a resized image
12644 Filtering unicode text with wildcard can result in false positives
12636 Entries in the Project Browser won't expand
12634 Cursor does not change correctly when over a revBrowser[CEF] instance.
12632 minHeight setting on Mac includes title bar height when it shouldn’t.
12631 CEF browser returns incorrect values for rect property
12628 Instability when using revAppendXML and revCopy/MoveRemoteXMLNode.
12612 Use sub-pixel positioning for laying out text within fields
Split by column causes crash
revBrowser placed incorrectly when dpi scaling enabled on Windows
Redraw slowdown in 6.7 (regression)
Number of controls of card returns wrong value if given a card id
Printing to PDF does not yield all information
setting effective rect to working screenrect fails
Screen updates occur during 'menu update' mouseDown message causing pauses when updating menus on first click.
Pasting text into a field can sometimes cause strange selection behavior.
'listIndent' attribute does not round-trip through htmlText
drawing_bug_when_rotating_graphic
REGEX : matchText result not as expected
Connecting to an HTTPS URL via a proxy fails if libURLEnSetVerification is true
Tunnelled proxies do not authenticate correctly
Changing the back color of a line which contains a tab makes LC crash
Objects which are adjacent don't necessary appear so at non integral scale factors.
The rttText does not represent 'metadata' tags correctly.
go to url internet stack path does not work
Hiding / deleting a stack doesn't update the mouseStack when it should.
Standalone engine still links to QTKit / QuickTime.
Clipboard data should return utf16 data for 'unicode' mode
Don't draw tab characters
Read from process until empty
Adding a new element to an array can be very slow
LC 6.7 dp4 plays an imported wav only once
Project Browser does not scroll down to show everything
Hiding player controller stretches movie image vertically
[[Player]] Setting playRate of player has no effect on playRate
player currentTimeChanged message does not include time parameter
Instability with manipulating QTKit players.
Setting callbacks in player causes crash
[[ Bug 12495 ]] Animating windowShape does not work properly on Mac.
Tabbed characters are cut off on the left
Various actions on players (such as hiding and showing) prevent it from working properly.
Maximum number of paragraphs which can be set with styledText is 64k
Retrieving data from url results in garbled data on iOS from LiveCode 7
Terminal window appears when accessing User Samples on Windows
Middle button paste doesn't work correctly in other apps when LiveCode has the selection on Linux.
Changing decorations causes no cursor to appear over a stack.
Queuing too many pending messages causes slowdown and random crashes.
Maximize button in Windows title bar doesn't use full screen under high-dpi Windows
Crash when reading invalid image data
Popup windows and combo-box menus don't disappear when they should.
import snapshot crashes LiveCode
Cursor changes incorrectly for top pixel of borderless windows on Mac.

import snapshot does not always display crosshair

iOS device builds rejected from app store due to XCode version in plist

Encryption commands do not work for iOS device builds

When using import/export snapshot from screen in non-interactive mode

Browser: revBrowserSnapshot issues in 6.7.0 DP3

Drag-drop does not work if 'private' data type is used on Mac.

Crash when modifying an unopened field.

Normal resizeQuality is slow

Key codes are mapped differently resulting keyboard shortcuts not acting correctly with non-English keyboard layouts.

Cmd-Z shortcut missing from "Undo" menu item

AcceleratedRendering causes double-sized stack controls on Retina displays

Hebrew text is shown in reverse character order on Android

Fix vGrid rendering for non-fixed-width table field mode.

mouseRelease message sent after selection from popup menu.

On Windows 7 Fullscreen set to false does not return to previous size

VideoGrabber doesn't work on Mac.

Setting the text of a field chunk should not clear the paragraph styles of an empty line.

Windows opened in popup mode have decorations.

Menubar in application makse revBrowser misaligned

Fix cursor movement over zero-width characters

mobileVibrate not vibrating when passed a variable

Inconsistencies in behavior when doing 'delete the selectedChunk'.

Pasting with the middle mouse button on linux doesn't work correctly.

Ensure that spaceAbove area is redrawn when hilite changes.

Dictation is unstable on Mac.

Buttons in Ask

Help menu: duplicate name

When setting the styledText of a range

ask dialog icon is a button with its autohilite set to true

Specific bug fixes (7.0.0-dp-6)

send command with a parameter which contains a quote breaks param parsing

embedded wav sound crashes Project Browser and Properties inspector in LC 7 dp5

paragraph chunk returns empty when string does not include end of paragraph mark

Fix highlights for non-left-aligned lines in fields

Quicktime using stacks crash on open

On clicking linktext (on second click)

dragData with a private content extracted from a string by using a chunk keyword (word)

charIndex property missing

setting stack decoration errors

fullscreenMode "showAll" breaks IDE

open file for binary read/write erroneously converting line endings

Native mobile controls created with mobGui do not seem to function under LiveCode 7.0
Specific bug fixes (7.0.0-dp-5)

12502  [[ Bugfix 12502 ]] Fix a null-pointer deref in PDF printing
12499  trueWord n + m of tText for n the number of trueWords of tText always returns trueWord n
12497  pageRanges property missing from LiveCode 7.0
12496  [[ Bugfix 12496 ]] Set the clipping rectangle for text blocks correctly
12494  Setting the randomSeed to large number fails in 7.0
12491  "Go to Definition" doesn't work in script editor
12489  filter/replace difference in 7.0
12486  [[ Bugfix 12486 ]] Add missing MovieControllerID property to the Player property table
12483  Graphic effects not working in 7.0 DP4
12482  replace does not work
12074  Answer dialog messages should be aligned to the right

Specific bug fixes (7.0.0-dp-4)

12459  Setting any graphic effects to "none" crashes LC 7 dp3
12457  sorting marked cards with single unmarked card crashes LiveCode
12432  clickchunk and click text are not identical
12428  Lc 7.0 DP3 does not sanitize data when setting points of polygon
12423  If you choose the browse tool (run) after Editing a group - Livecode crashes.
12422  Sort puts a "p" after the last character and foreign letters is not sorted correct
12409  Fields in LC 7 fail to display binfile url imagesource
12407  'Garbage' with read from socket
12360  open file as utf-8 mode doesn't work exactly as documented
12351  Crash on write then read until EOF on driver
12345  AVD's appear in the list but can't be selected for testing.
12344  Can't open recent file
12309  Build for Windows fails with i/o error
12288  Prevent User Samples stack hanging due to resize error
12246  Serial I/O fails on write
12192  linux uninstaller needs execute permission
12061  Can't test an app on Android
11989  arrayDecode on a file containing the result of arrayEncode on an empty array causes execution error

Specific bug fixes (7.0.0-dp-3)

12290  saving 2.7 file format stack causes crash
12244  case sensitive does not work
12204  textEncode ASCII support is actually native
12195  equality testing is slow
12194  'char/byte/codepoint 1 of s' is slow
12184  'repeat for each byte b in empty' crashes
12180  'the number of bytes of ...' is slow
12179  Fetching byte chunks does not clamp the range to the bounds of the input data.
12168  Sometimes length() and number or chars are wrong
12160  Put after/before on an uninitialised
LiveCode crashes when changing the window kind
create button in group command fails
The mousechunk end index is one larger than it ought to be
Erroneous Socket Timeout Error
the drawer command crashes Livecode 7.0 when using '…at position' variant.
Fix wrong application title displaying on Linux
Update GTK icon cache post-install
revExecuteSQL writes incomplete data into SQLite BLOB columns
Scrambled word order for label field with Hebrew and English Text
Buttons that contain Hebrew Text is in wrong order
Linux Standalone does not run. Segmentation fault.
"save stack" corrupt password protected stacks
IDE fails to launch when installed to a Unicode path
char 1 of (e + combining acute accent) returns e
Split command causes IDE to stop responding
IDE takes 8 seconds when adding a new line in Script Editor
repeat loop is very slow in 7.0 DP1
Opening the TestFramework stack crashes LiveCode

Specific bug fixes (7.0.0-dp-2)
Convert command fails with invalid date since 7.0
setting acceleratorModifiers of button causes crash
OSX picking wrong file extension for filenames with two '.' characters
hiliteColor and borderColor is not working in 7.0DP1
hGrid
 Group with label can't be saved in 5.5 file format
formatting hex string crashes LiveCode 7.0
New chunk types (paragraph
'lock screen for visual effect in rect...' not working
numToByte works differently form numToChar in 6.6
put does not populate the result on iOS
calling mobileControlTarget () crashes the application
Password protected stacks are corrupted by LiveCode 7
Dotted border of selection in List control is incorrectly aligned
LC crashes when selecting wrapped text in Contents pane
Text wrapping improperly breaks text mid-word
sort field does not work
sort card of stack crashes
mark card does not work
find string in field does not work
Export snapshot crashes LiveCode when it should return empty rect error
Vertical tabulation in a field causes the engine to hang
The number of paragraphs reported value is incorrect
Script Editor does not resize correctly with the resize handle
Variables not being resolved in the script debugger.
Dictionary additions

- byteOffset (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- codepointOffset (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- codepointProperty (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- codepointToNum (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- codeunitOffset (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- nativeCharToNum (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- normalizeText (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- numToCodepoint (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- numToNativeChar (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- paragraphOffset (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- sentenceOffset (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- textDecode (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- textEncode (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- tokenOffset (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- truewordOffset (function) has been added to the dictionary.
- codepoint (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- codepoints (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- codeunit (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- codeunits (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- paragraph (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- paragraph (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- segment (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- segments (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- sentence (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- sentences (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- trueWord (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- trueWords (keyword) has been added to the dictionary.
- cursorMovement (property) has been added to the dictionary.
- formSensitive (property) has been added to the dictionary.
- tabAlign (property) has been added to the dictionary.
- textDirection (property) has been added to the dictionary.

Dictionary changes

- The entry for export snapshot (command) has been updated.
- The entry for export with palette (command) has been updated.
- The entry for export (command) has been updated.
- The entry for open driver (command) has been updated.
- The entry for open file (command) has been updated.
- The entry for open process (command) has been updated.
- The entry for open socket (command) has been updated.
- The entry for secure socket (command) has been updated.
- The entry for sort container (command) has been updated.
- The entry for sort (command) has been updated.
- The entry for repeat (control structure) has been updated.
- The entry for arrayEncode (function) has been updated.
• The entry for charToNum (function) has been updated.
• The entry for longFilePath (function) has been updated.
• The entry for measureUnicodeText (function) has been updated.
• The entry for numToChar (function) has been updated.
• The entry for uniDecode (function) has been updated.
• The entry for uniEncode (function) has been updated.
• The entry for byte (keyword) has been updated.
• The entry for character (keyword) has been updated.
• The entry for word (keyword) has been updated.
• The entry for words (keyword) has been updated.
• The entry for is among (operator) has been updated.
• The entry for is not among (operator) has been updated.
• The entry for centerRect (property) has been updated.
• The entry for clipsToRect (property) has been updated.
• The entry for iconGravity (property) has been updated.
• The entry for ignoreMouseEvents (property) has been updated.
• The entry for points (property) has been updated.
• The entry for relativePoints (property) has been updated.
• The entry for unicodeFormattedText (property) has been updated.
• The entry for unicodeLabel (property) has been updated.
• The entry for unicodePlainText (property) has been updated.
• The entry for unicodeText (property) has been updated.
• The entry for unicodeTitle (property) has been updated.
• The entry for unicodeTooltip (property) has been updated.
• The entry for useUnicode (property) has been updated.
Previous Release Notes

6.6.0 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_6_0/LiveCodeNotes-6_6_0.pdf
6.5.2 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_5_2/LiveCodeNotes-6_5_2.pdf
6.5.1 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_5_1/LiveCodeNotes-6_5_1.pdf
6.5.0 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_5_0/LiveCodeNotes-6_5_0.pdf
6.1.2 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_1_2/LiveCodeNotes-6_1_2.pdf
6.1.1 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_1_1/LiveCodeNotes-6_1_1.pdf
6.1.0 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_1_0/LiveCodeNotes-6_1_0.pdf
6.0.2 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_0_2/LiveCodeNotes-6_0_2.pdf
6.0.1 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_0_1/LiveCodeNotes-6_0_1.pdf
6.0.0 Release Notes  http://downloads.livecode.com/livecode/6_0_0/LiveCodeNotes-6_0_0.pdf