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Exercises for Programmers

57 Challenges to Develop Your Coding Skills

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The
Pragmatic
Programmers

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Brian P. Hogan

Edited by Susannah Davidson Pfalzer

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The team that produced this book includes:

Susannah Davidson Pfalzer (editor)

Linda Recktenwald (copyedit)

Dave Thomas (layout)

Janet Furlow (producer)

Ellie Callahan (support)

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Did you know you can find out exactly who's in space right now? The Open Notify API provides that information. Visit <http://api.open-notify.org/astros.json> to see not only how many people are currently in space but also their names and which spacecraft they're on.

Create a program that pulls in this data and displays the information from this API in a tabular format.

Example Output

There are 3 people in space right now:

Name	Craft
Gennady Padalka	ISS
Mikhail Kornienko	ISS
Scott Kelly	ISS

Constraint

- Read the data directly from the API and parse the results each time the program is run. Don't download the data as text and read it in.

Challenges

- Ensure that the width of the header is as long as the longest value in the column.
- Don't repeat the name of the craft—group all people by craft.
- Can you reliably sort the results alphabetically by last name? Be careful—some people have spaces in their name, like “Mary Sue Van Pelt.”