```perl
# =========== MIS-supplied code to prepare data ==============

# Check that we have all the data we're supposed to have.
#
unless ( $query->param("username") )
{
  die_html "You did not supply a username; try again.";
}
$query->param("username" => uc($query->param("username")));

unless ( $query->param("password") )
{
  die_html "You did not supply a password; try again.";
}

if ( $query->param("asof_date") )
{
  $query->param("asof_date" => uc($query->param("asof_date")));
  unless ( $query->param("asof_date") =~ /^$dd_mon_yyyy$/ )
  {
    die_html sprintf("Your 'as of' date, '%s', was not in the format "
                    ."'DD-MON-YYYY'; try again.", $query->param("asof_date"));
  }
}
else
{
  $query->param("asof_date" => "");
}

unless ( $query->param("grant") )
{
  die_html "You did not supply a grant code; try again.";
}
$query->param("grant" => uc($query->param("grant")));
                                                            # continued...
```