
Subject: Re: PRINT request for RSI

Posted by [Evilio del Rio](#) on Fri, 27 Feb 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Robert S. Mallozzi wrote:

>
> IDL is a great tool for string manipulation, and I
> frequently use it to generate various files. However,
> it is quite painful to have to invoke the PRINT
> function for every line of output. I think it would
> be extremely useful for IDL to have the capability
> to use the unix shell or perl type of printing,
> where one specifies to print until a certain label.
> For example, in perl I can do
>
> print << EOF;
>
> print stuff
> print more stuff
>
> EOF
>
> As far as I can tell, there is no way to do something
> like this in IDL, is there? Maybe in IDL, something
> like this could be implemented:

>
Hi Robert,

I think that you don't need such a feature. You can do it with the
STRING() function and array printing:

```
out = [ 'x = '+STRING(X),$  
      'y = '+STRING(Y,FORMAT='(G9.3)'),$  
;..etc  
      'a string']  
;...  
out = [out,STRING(morestuff,/PRINT)]  
;...  
print,out,FORMAT='(A)'
```

>
> This, I think, would be a great feature.
> On another topic, I would like to see some method
> implemented for commenting out whole blocks of
> code, rather than using ; on every line, or a
> GOTO statement. I can't think of any reason offhand
> what the C commenting construct /* */ couldn't
> be used. Anyway, just my \$0.02 (for today :-)

>

IMHO, the /* */ construct is not so good and arises some unadvertised problems (nesting, continuation lines, pointer syntax). If what you want is to comment blocks while you are editing a program, maybe you will be interested in using some editor like emacs or jed that can do this (and many other things) interactively.

Cheers,

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"Anywhere you choose,/ Anyway, you're gonna lose"- Mike Oldfield
