
Subject: Re: translating an array name to a string
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 19 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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David Williams <d.williams@qub.ac.uk> writes:

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> Alex Schuster wrote:
>>
>> David Williams wrote:
>>
>>> Hi. This is probably a very basic IDL question, so apologies if that's
>>> the case. I'm looking for a way to translate the name of an array (e.g.
>>> "DATACUBE1") into a string that I can use in titles and/or in feedback
>>> at the prompt. I want to make my routines more user-friendly, and I hate
>>> forcing a title
>>
>> Have a look at the OUTPUT keyword to HELP:
>>
>
> Vielen Dank, Alex! That was just what I needed.
```

Pardon me, but if you know the name of your variable already, then it seems that you don't really have a problem. If you know the variable name is MOVIE, then why not hardcode that into the output string?

On the other hand, if you are in a procedure or function, it might indeed be useful to know the name of variable at the *caller's* level. In that case you would want to use the ROUTINE_NAMES function, which is unfortunately undocumented.

I have documented what I and the newsgroup have discovered about this very useful function. You will find it here:

<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html>

listed under Introspection.

Good luck!
Craig

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