
Subject: Re: Variable name to string

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Wed, 18 Jul 2001 14:04:30 GMT

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Chad Bender <cbender@mail.astro.sunysb.edu> writes:

> Hello-
>
> Can anyone please point me towards the solution of the following
> problem?
>
> Say I want to create a program that will write the contents of a named
> array to a
> file of the same name. This could be accomplished by having the program
> prompt
> the user for both the variable name (getting the array by reference) and
> the file name
> (getting the string naming the output file), and the user just puts the
> same
> thing twice. However, I would like to be able to do it so the user only
> has one prompt.

This appears to be basic string manipulation, which can be accomplished using the "+" symbol.

```
;; Get variable name.
```

```
varname = "
```

```
read, varname
```

```
;; Derive file name from variable name
```

```
filename = varname + '.dat'
```

Now, as the others have pointed out, the harder question is really, how do you get at a variable for which you only have the name? EXECUTE can work if the variable and your code are at the same level. For example, this code

```
return_code = execute('DATA = '+varname)
```

will put the data into a variable named DATA. Also, sneaky use of ROUTINE_NAMES can do it. But honestly, you should try to re-work your concept so you don't have to do that if you can.

Craig

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
