
Subject: Re: Really really long format keywords

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Mon, 22 Oct 2001 19:26:38 GMT

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"Liam E. Gumley" wrote:

```
>
> Sean Raffuse wrote:
>> I would like to write formatted output to a file. My problem is that my
>> format specifications are too long to fit on one line in IDL, yet I would
>> like all of the data to be written to one line.
>>
>> eg.
>>
>> printf, lun, data, format = '(a5, 5x, f5.2, f5.2 . . . . and so on . . .
>> . . . . .)'
>>
>> Is there a character that I can use that works like the '$' character inside
>> this string?
>
> printf, lun, data, format = '(a5, 5x, f5.2,' + $
> 'f5.2, a20, i13.3)'
```

By the way, did you know IDLWAVE will do this for you? [M-Ret] is the continuation keystroke. In a regular line, it will insert '\$' and move to the next line (indented appropriately of course). Inside of a string, it will close the string, insert "+ \$", and start the string again on the next line. It even works for existing strings.

Example:

```
a= 'Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid.'
```

positioning on the g in good and hit [M-Ret] yields:

```
a= 'Now is the time for all ' + $
   'good men to come to the aid.'
```

This is especially useful when a line which formerly fit gets moved over by indentation changes (another enclosing if block, anyone?).

JD
