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Subject: How do I use FORMAT as I would SPRINTF?? Please Help!

Posted by [Brian Huether](#) on Thu, 19 Sep 2002 10:23:57 GMT

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I am quite perplexed by the IDL FORMAT keyword. I am used to MATLAB where I can quite simply use the sprintf command. For instance, in MATLAB, the command

```
s = sprintf('IDL has been driving me crazy for the last %d days', 10)
```

would result in a string that contains

```
'IDL has been driving me crazy for the last 10 days'
```

What I really need to do is something like this:

```
s = sprintf('SIZE(%s, /%s)', arrayname, somekeyword)
```

So if arrayname is A and somekeyword is TYPE, then the resulting string would be

```
'SIZE(A, /TYPE)'
```

It is a meaningless example but hopefully you see what I want to do (i.e. I need to execute IDL commands in a loop, where each time through, the command input parameters are varying and are specified by indexing arrays that contain the parameters)

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