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

Posted by [Richard Younger](#) on Thu, 19 Sep 2002 14:41:30 GMT

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wmc@bas.ac.uk wrote:

>

> IDL is like FORTRAN, not C.

>

Well, yes. But if you're running, er, 5.4 I think, or later, the FORMAT keyword supports printf style tokens. Just prepend a % to the format string.

E.g. (nicked from the IDL help files):

```
PRINT, FORMAT=('%"I have %d monkeys, %s.")', 23, 'Scott'
```

Look at the bottom of the IDL help topic "Format Codes." The common codes are all supported.

Now, admittedly, most of us are more familiar with the traditional FORTRAN-style, so if you post here you may cause some confusion. Do whatever is the most productive, I say.

Good Luck,
Rich

--

Richard Younger
