
Subject: Again: How to use FORMAT like sprintf??

Posted by [Brian Huether](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2002 07:32:49 GMT

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I posted this question and got some great answers but everytime I tried the examples that you all showed me, IDL gave me this error:

Unexpected text in format

I am using IDL 5.2. Could that be the problem? If so, can someone explain how to do what I need using version 5.2? Here is my original message:

thanks,

brian

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)
