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Subject: Re: problem string from double missing digits  
Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Thu, 11 Sep 2003 13:10:14 GMT  
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Reimar Bauer wrote:

```
>
> Hi all,
>
> did someone know what here is going on.
>
> IDL> d = 98046763.617D
> IDL> s = string(d)
> IDL> PRINT,s
>      98046764.
> IDL> HELP,s
> S      STRING   = '      98046764.'
>
> Where are the digits ???
...
> Or does it mean I have first to determine the Format of the number and I
> have to use this information to get the right number.
```

If you don't like the default format, you do have to specify the particular alternative you wish to use. However, you don't have to be explicit:

```
IDL> PRINT,string(d,FORMAT='(F)')
98046763.61699999900000000
```

That's overkill, but at least you didn't lose anything. Coming from a C background, I personally prefer:

```
IDL> PRINT,string(d,FORMAT='(%"%f")')
98046763.617000
```

```
...
> This goes right. But my feeling is this is terrible. Because I bet noone
> takes care on this. What's your feeling?
```

My feeling is that you'd lose your bet. Almost everyone who spends much time printing floating point numbers ends up sooner or later having to override the default formats.

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