

---

Subject: exporting table data to a CSV file

Posted by [timothy.williams](#) on Wed, 17 Sep 2003 13:18:20 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi.

I want to output the contents of a table to a CSV file for import to Excel, or perhaps something else. I don't know in advance the data type of the cells, so I can't use the FORMAT= keyword. I've coded up something, but I know FOR loops are "bad" and was wondering if there is a better way.

Here's what I have (coding from memory here)

```
widget_control, table, get_value=values
labels=tag_names(values)

;write header
printf, lun, strjoin(labels, ', ')
outarr=strarr(n_tags(values))
;write out each row
for i=0, n_elements(values)-1 do begin
    for j=0, n_tags(values)-1 do outarr[j]=values[i].(j)
    printf, lun, strjoin(outarr, ', ')
endfor
```

Is there a better way to do this?

I also saw David Fannings code about writing CSV files, and learned about the WIDTH keyword to OPEN. What's a good way to get the max width of the table so my output won't get truncated?

Thanks.

---