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Subject: Re: Format in PRINTF  
Posted by [btt](#) on Tue, 27 Sep 2005 12:56:55 GMT  
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coco wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> I have a stringarray containing numbers and letters and want to print  
> this string to a file. each line should consist of 130 arrayelements,  
> each element should take two places.  
>  
> Using this format command: format='(130(A2))' just writes the letters,  
> but not the numbers.  
>

Hi,

Believe it or not - your numbers are being output - but they are being truncated, too.

```
IDL> v = 18
IDL> s = STRING(v)
IDL> print, v
    18
IDL> print, s
    18
```

The 'natural' length of an integer converted to a string is 8 characters. Note that the integer-now-string is padded on the left with spaces. Anytime you specify the output format with '(A2)' then just the first two characters are output and the rest is truncated.

```
IDL> v = '1234'
IDL> print, v, FORMAT = '(A2)'
    12
```

Where to go from here depends on what you need to do. Since you have a string array to start with you might try STRTRIM(value, 2) which strips leading and trailing blanks.

```
IDL> v = STRING(18)
IDL> s = STRTRIM(v, 2)
IDL> print, v
    18
IDL> print, s
    18
```

Make sure you have a plan for when the numbers exceed two digits in length.

Cheers,  
Ben

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