
Subject: Re: STRING with FORMAT keyword and REFORM
Posted by [Bruce Bowler](#) on Wed, 11 Jan 2006 15:38:31 GMT
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On Wed, 11 Jan 2006 10:11:47 -0500, Ben Tupper put fingers to keyboard and said:

```
> Hello All,
>
> I just bumped into a funny thing. When calling
>
> result = STRING(array, FORMAT = '(something'))
>
> a 2d array is reformed into a 1d array.
>
> Here's an example...
>
> print, !VERSION
> ;{ ppc darwin unix Mac OS X 6.2 Jun 20 2005    32    32}
>
> number = REBIN(INDGEN(1,10), 10,10)
> text = STRING(number, FORMAT = '(I2.2)')
> help, number, text
>
> ;NUMBER      INT      = Array[10, 10]
> ;TEXT        STRING   = Array[100]  <<<<< reformed, nuts!
>
> text = STRING(number)
> help, number, text
> ;NUMBER      INT      = Array[10, 10]
> ;TEXT        STRING   = Array[10, 10] <<<< not reformed
>
> text = STRING(text, format = '(I2.2)')
> help, number, text
>
> ;NUMBER      INT      = Array[10, 10]
> ;TEXT        STRING   = Array[100]  <<< still reformed
>
> I can re-reform the array, but nothing pops out at me from the online
> help about this. Is this expected behavior?
>
> Thanks,
> Ben
```

Well since IDL formats are similar to FORTRAN formats, it doesn't surprise me. If you were to use that format statement in FORTRAN, you'd get 100 lines of output. I think you really want to use a format of '(10I2.2)' or '10(I2.2)'. See the section in "Building IDL apps" called "Using

explicitly formatted I/O" starting at page 161 (at least that's where it is in my V5 doc set :-)

Bruce

```
--
+-----+-----+
Bruce Bowler      | I am the woman who gave bad taste a good name. -
1.207.633.9600    | Bette Middler
bbowler@bigelow.org |
+-----+-----+
```
