

---

Subject: Determining a safe variable name from a string  
Posted by [Ben Panter](#) on Tue, 31 Oct 2006 17:53:12 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi Folks,

I'm sure I've seen this here before, but extensive googling didn't trawl anything up. I'd like to be able to convert a random string into something I can use for a variable name (heavy execute'ing going on here). Something that clears out all the ./\*/&/'s and the like. Ideally it would replace them with something useful, realistically I'd be happy if it just removed the unsafe characters from the string.

something like:

```
res=wonderful_routine('vmax_z0.1_0.3')
print, res
vmax_z0p1_0p3
```

I've already written something similar which I can butcher, but I'm sure there was an IDL routine that did this already?

Many thanks,

Ben

--

Ben Panter, Edinburgh, UK.  
Email false, <http://www.benpanter.co.uk>  
or you could try ben at ^^^^^^^^^^^^^

---