
Subject: Re: print to a variable

Posted by [dwu](#) on Mon, 20 Nov 1995 08:00:00 GMT

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The question is how to print all the stuff into a string instead of screen.
such as when you type help, you will see

```
IDL> help
```

```
% At $MAIN$
```

```
Code area used: 0% (0/32768), Symbol area used: 0% (4/8192)
```

```
# local variables: 0, # parameters: 0
```

```
Compiled Procedures:
```

```
    $MAIN$
```

```
Compiled Functions:
```

What I want is a string or array of string to store these information.

I have a method:

```
shell> idl > idl.log
```

```
IDL> (do the job, print, help,...)
```

```
    all of these will not be seen on the screen, it will be in the  
    file idl.log
```

```
IDL> (test how many lines in the file use NOT EOF(unit) )
```

```
IDL> (replicate a string to an array of string)
```

```
IDL> (readf the file to the string array)
```

This method will print all the results, and not show them on the screen.

Now my question is how to print only one command result, and also
print everything to the screen simultaneously.

Mark Rivers (rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu) wrote:

: In article <48qip6\$199@post.gsfc.nasa.gov>, gfu@shark.gsfc.nasa.gov (Gary Fu) writes:

: >Is there a simple way to write outputs to a string variable that has

: >the same result as by using the 'print' statement ?

: >

: >I'm asking something like 'sprintf' as to 'printf' in C.

: >

: Use the string() function:

```
: IDL> a = !pi
```

```
: IDL> b = 'This is PI: ' + string(a)
```

```
: IDL> print, b
```

```
: This is PI:      3.14159
```

: Note that the string function takes a "format" keyword, just like print:
: IDL> print, string(!pi, format='(f10.2)')
: 3.14

:
: _____
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Ding Wu
