
Subject: Re: anything like sprintf?

Posted by [lasse](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2008 13:35:41 GMT

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On 18 Feb, 13:56, Yann Zoll <y_z2...@yahoo.de> wrote:

> Thx for all the sugestions.

>

> At the moment i use the if conditions. you need one if... per value:

>

> if for example the problem is the time:

>

> [/color]

[color=blue]> [/color]

[color=blue]> hh, mm, ss = hours, minutes, seconds[/color]

[color=blue]> [/color]

[color=blue]> if hh lt 10 then hh = '0'+string(hh)[/color]

[color=blue]> if mm lt 10[/color]

[color=blue]> if ss ...[/color]

[color=blue]> [/color]

[color=blue]> time = strcompress(hh+':' +mm+':'ss',/REMOVE_ALL)[/color]

[color=blue]> [/color]

[color=blue]> [/color]

>

> if you encounter this problem in perl, the code looks like:

>

> [/color]

[color=blue]> [/color]

[color=blue]> time = sprintf("%02d.%02d.%02d",hh,mm,ss)[/color]

[color=blue]> [/color]

[color=blue]> [/color]

>

> ok, perl needs no explicit type casting as idl does so the "string()"

> command is necessary, but is it possible to assign the output of print

> (with the format keyword) to a variable?

>

> yann

No, but you can use a format code for the conversion of a number to a string by specifying the format keyword, as in my example above.

Again, read the IDL help on format codes. IDL uses Fortran format codes which are very similar to the stuff you already use in Perl with sprintf. Your example in IDL with format codes would be

```
hour = 2
```

```
minute = 3
```

```
second=9
```

```
time = string([hour,minute,second],$
```

```
format='(I02,":",I02,":",I02)')
```

As you can see, the three numbers are converted to a string using the `STRING()` function. Additionally, you can pass a format code, here `I02`. "I" means that the output is an integer value, i.e. no positions after the decimal point. "2" is the length of the output and "0" indicates the padding with 0 if the integer output is shorter than the length.

Read here http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/Format_Codes.html. On that page you will see that IDL also supports C-style formatting which is the formatting Perl uses.

So long
Lasse Clausen
