## Subject: Re: idl format codes and output files
Posted by Kenneth Bowman on Mon, 25 Feb 2008 18:50:31 GMT

In article <82c65103-bb37-4cf3-af12-d060e5ae30d8@o10g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>,
 elwood <epolomsk@uwsp.edu> wrote:

> Is there a way to use printf and a format code which takes as a
> parameter a variable size
> width that is calculated prior to calling printf.
> Reason why: So that the output file will have pretty formatted
> columns.
>
>
> For example,
> Suppose I have a program that prompts for a string.
> The program doesnt know ahead of time how long the string will be.
>
> Then I use strlen to find its length
> len=strlen(word)
>
> can I do something like the following:
>
> printf,1,word,format='(alen)'


A format code is just a string itself, so you can create the format
in may ways, e.g.,

```
IDL> len = 20
IDL> format = '(A' + STRTRIM(len, 2) + ')'
IDL> print, format
(A20)
IDL> PRINT, 'This is a test string.', FORMAT = format
This is a test strin
```


Ken Bowman