
Subject: Re: idl format codes and output files
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Mon, 25 Feb 2008 21:25:42 GMT
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On Feb 25, 1:36 pm, Bob Crawford <Snowma...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Feb 25, 1:16 pm, elwood <epolo...@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)'
>
> printf,1,word,format='(a)'
>
> -or-
>
> printf,1,word,format='(a0)'

To be more precise, yes you can create a string and pass it to the format keyword. For example:

```
read, iwid, prompt="Input width: "  
fmt='(l' + strtrim(iwid,2) + ' )'  
printf, lun, val, format=fmt
```