
Subject: idl format codes and output files

Posted by [elwood](#) on Mon, 25 Feb 2008 18:16:41 GMT

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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)'
```
