
Subject: Re: quick testing of string variables
Posted by [hamill](#) on Sun, 28 Apr 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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The example below is fine. It is often convenient, and a good idea, to use an additional argument to the WHERE function, since it returns the number of matches found, i.e. `t = WHERE(a EQ 's4',n) & IF n NE 0 THEN ...` Use of `n` is to my taste cleaner and easier to read.

This is my first posting to any newsgroup; so apologies if for some reason it does not read well.

Jim Hamill
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In article <DqBo3L.KL4@midway.uchicago.edu>, [rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu](#) wrote:

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> In article <moninger-2304960900010001@zirkle.fsl.noaa.gov>,
moninger@fsl.noaa.gov (Bill Moninger) writes:
>> I have an array called station_name, dimensioned (6,n). Each item is a
>> string 6 characters long. I would like to quickly test station_name
>> against a particular string variable, find_this_station, another string of
>> dimension 6.
>>
>> Is there any way to do this without using loops?
>>
>> If I have to use loops, does anyone have a tip on the fastest way to do so?
>>
>> Is there a better way to configure the array station_name to make such
>> tests (against a particular station name) faster?
>
> Here is how to do it:
>
> IDL> a = ['s1', 's2', 's3', 's4', 's5', 's6']
> IDL> t = where(a eq 's4')
> IDL> print, t
>      3
>
> The where() function finds the index number of the string in the array which
> matches your test string. It returns -1 if there is no match.
>
>
> _____
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```

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