
Subject: Re: Question about user input in IDL
Posted by [Joanna](#) on Fri, 10 Jul 2009 18:54:07 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Jul 9, 4:46 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

```
> Joanna writes:
>> Hi! I'm a very, very amateur programmer, much less IDL user... so if
>> this question doesn't even make sense, I wouldn't be surprised!
>
>> Okay, so I'm writing a code that requires the user to input a string.
>> I have this:
>
>> x=""
>> read,'Enter first type (Example: alpha, beta, gamma): ',x
>> print,x
>
>> So, when I execute this, and someone chooses alpha, then alpha gets
>> printed on the screen. However, within the program, I've read in some
>> data using rdffloat,'filename.txt',alpha,beta,gamma. So, really I want
>> to define x as alpha which then refers to this column of data, so that
>> when it gets to the print,x it actually prints this column of data. I
>> don't even know if this is possible, but if there's a way to do it, I
>> would be ecstatic!
>
> How about something like this:
>
> rdffloat, 'filename.txt', alpha, beta, gamma
> x = "
> read,'Enter first type (Example: alpha, beta, gamma): ',x
> CASE StrLowerCase(x) OF
>   'alpha': Print, alpha
>   'beta': Print, beta
>   'gamma': Print, gamma
>   ELSE: Print, 'I have no idea what you want!!'
> ENDCASE
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
```

Hi, thanks for the response...I actually figured out a way to make it work using an if loop. I just said if x eq 'alpha' then a=alpha, and then stuck that a into the function I was actually using on the data

and it worked. Thanks again!
