
Subject: Re: Q: Use of variables with FORMAT
Posted by [gunter](#) on Thu, 09 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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I (gunter@alpha1.csd.uwm.edu) wrote the following clueless post:

```
: Suppose I need to print a line of 100 3-digit integers including a single  
: space in between each one. Then I would use the following:  
:  
:   printf, unit, data_array, format='(100I4)'  
:  
: where the data_array contains 100 elements in this case. However, this line  
: appears inside of a routine to which data_array is passed and data_array does  
: not always contain 100 elements. Is there some way of replacing the '100'  
: in the above line with a variable? I've tried the obvious ways I could  
: think of, to no avail.
```

Of course I didn't think of the MOST obvious solution, as pointed out to me by a few people. Since the FORMAT keyword wants a string, just assemble it based on the number of elements in the data_array. This works:

```
form_string = "(" + strtrim(string(n_elements(data_array)),2) + "I4)"  
printf, unit, data_array, format=form_string
```

Note the use of the double quotes so that the single quote can be included.

-david
