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Subject: Re: Adding two strings together

Posted by [Jim Pendleton](#) on Wed, 18 Nov 2015 03:05:30 GMT

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On Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 7:36:30 PM UTC-7, Wayana Dolan wrote:

> So I'm having a devil of a time with something that should be easy.  
>  
> So I want the end product to look like 'Run07656\_Seq0001\_Scan012', for every scan in a file I have  
> So I put the following in a loop for all of the scans  
> x='Run0'+string(variable1)+'\_Seq0001\_Scan'+string(variable2)  
> where variable 1 is the run (ex. 7657), and variable 2 is the scan (ex. 012).  
>  
> But for some reason they all print out like 'Run0        7656\_Seq0001\_Scan012'  
>  
>  
> How so I make it so there is no space between the 0 and the 7?  
>  
> Please help!

When numbers are converted to strings by default using the STRING function, they generally include leading spaces. The traditional way around this is to call the STRTRIM() function, for example STRTRIM(variable1, 2)

If you're running 8.4 or later, I encourage more modern syntax, for example  
IDL> x='Run0'+variable1.toStringing()+'\_Seq0001\_Scan'+variable2.toStringing()  
IDL> x  
Run012345\_Seq0001\_Scan345

The .toStringing() static method on IDL\_Variable types implies trimming of both leading and trailing blanks.

For more on static methods, see [http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/IDL\\_Variable.html](http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/IDL_Variable.html)

Jim P.

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