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Subject: Print format question for the Experts  
Posted by [jmcfee](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2001 18:51:16 GMT  
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I have a question which I think should have a simple answer. Being a master of kludging code for physics problems, it's not surprising that I haven't been able to figure it out. I'm hoping the experts in this group can.

I am using IDL to read records one at a time from a file and I want to print out a message that each record was successfully read, i.e., I would print something like the following for record 5:

Record number 5 out of 1500

Because I can have several thousand records in a run, I do not want to have a flowing list like:

...  
Record number 1034 out of 1500  
Record number 1035 out of 1500  
Record number 1036 out of 1500  
...etc.

but instead just want one line where the record number increments, i.e.,

Record number n out of 1500 [where n changes at the same spot]

To do that I tried the following code:

```
i=0
print, format=('$,"Record number ",t19,i6,t27,"out of " , t28,i6)',i+1,max_rec
for i=0,max_rec-1 do begin
    read_a_record_function
    print, format=('$,tl42,i6)', i+1
endfor
```

What I get is something like:

Record number 1 out of 1500 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 13 14  
15....etc.

In other words, the \$ format character supresses the new line, but each new print sets the next line's "left-right" pointer at the right edge of the previous printed line.

I've tried the t format char as well as the tl character with no more luck.

Does anybody know how to do this?

Thanks

John McFee

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Subject: Re: Print format question -> DEcTerm Title utility  
Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Fri, 03 Aug 2001 03:47:21 GMT  
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John McFee wrote:

>  
> Because I can have several thousand records in a run, I do not want to have a  
> flowing list like:  
>  
> ...  
> Record number 1034 out of 1500  
> Record number 1035 out of 1500  
> Record number 1036 out of 1500  
> ...etc.  
>  
> but instead just want one line where the record number increments, i.e.,  
>  
> Record number n out of 1500 [where n changes at the same spot]

For VMS users,

This ancient utility to change the title of VMS DECTerms and optionally the associated Icon labels may be of interest as an alternative to print statements to the Output log, or even a widget progress-meter-thingy.

There's an overhead of course, and for large loops it would be prudent to call the routine every nth iteration or so.

Note that a string array applied to the Icon produces multiple lined labels.

This works nicely under OVMS 7.3

Cheers,

Andrew

```
;+
;1 DECTERM_TITLE
;
; Write out supplied string/array to either DecTerm title window
; or the DecTerm's Icon.
;
; Calling with no title parameter resets the window/icon title
; to the title as it existed when the IDL session was started up.
;
; If a string array is passed to the ICON label, Line feeds (LF) will
be
; inserted automatically to create a multiple line icon. There is a
limit
; of about 50-60 characters all up for multiple line icons, including 1
LF
; character per line.
;
; If a string array is passed to the DecTerm title, a single blank
space
; is inserted between array elements.
;
; Examples :
;
;   Insert new title : DECTERM_TITLE,'Executing Test.exe'
;   DECTERM_TITLE,'Test.exe',/ICON
;   DECTERM_TITLE,/ICON,['This','is a','test']
;
;   Reset to previous title : DECTERM_TITLE
;   DECTERM_TITLE,/ICON
;
; Format:
; IDL> DECTERM_TITLE [,title,/ICON]
;
;
;2 Amendments
; 23-Aug-93 Andrew COOL 1.00 Baseline.
;
;
```

```

*****
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;
;
;

```

PRO Decterm\_Title, title, ICON = icon

IF N\_ELEMENTS(title) EQ 0 THEN title = "

;... Define <ESC> sequence characters

```

osc = STRING(157B)
st  = STRING(156B)

```

;... If writing to ICON, then set lf to LINE FEED, else set to blank pad

```

IF KEYWORD_SET(icon) NE 0 THEN BEGIN
  lf = STRING(10B)
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
  lf = ' '
ENDELSE

```

;... If title is an array, then concatenate elements and add LF's

```

IF N_ELEMENTS(title) GT 1 THEN BEGIN
  tmp = title(0) + lf
  FOR i = 1,N_ELEMENTS(title)-1 DO BEGIN
    tmp = tmp + title(i) + lf
  END
  title = tmp
ENDIF

```

```

IF KEYWORD_SET(icon) NE 0 THEN BEGIN
  cmd = osc + '2L;' + title + st
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
  cmd = osc + '21;' + title + st
ENDELSE

```

;... Just writing this to the screen affects either the DecTerm title  
;... or the icon

```

PRINT,cmd

```

END

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