
Subject: journal file contents

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 04 Apr 2002 19:04:28 GMT

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I am perusing a journal file and have a question about what's included. If I issue a 'print' command, the results are saved in the file, but if I use a help command, as in

```
help, where(ots eq 'o' and nnp ge 0 and agp lt 10.)
```

the answer is not saved in the file. This is somewhat of an inconvenience, as it's the answer to the help command that is the value that's needed for a particular calculation, and that I would like to be able to refer to later on. I don't really want to do a print,where... because I don't really care which elements meet the criteria, just how many there are. Why is this?

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Subject: Re: journal file contents

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Apr 2002 21:20:26 GMT

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Med Bennett (mwbennett@windra.com) writes:

```
> well, thanks David . . . I guess I should have said that I knew that there
> were ways in this case to get around the problem - but what if there was
> information that only the help command could give you that you wanted to show
> up in the journal file?
```

Well, then I think you would have to do this:

```
IDL> Help, myvar, /Structure, Output=text
IDL> FOR j=0,N_Elements(text)-1 DO Print, text[j]
```

Of course, you would probably want to wrap those two commands up into a procedure called J_Help (or something) so you could just do this while you were journaling:

```
IDL> J_Help, myvar, /Structure
```

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: journal file contents

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 04 Apr 2002 22:36:48 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Med Bennett (mwbennett@windra.com) writes:

>
>> well, thanks David . . . I guess I should have said that I knew that there
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> two commands up into a procedure called J_Help
> (or something) so you could just do this while
> you were journaling:

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> IDL> J_Help, myvar, /Structure

>
> Cheers,

>
> David

> --

> David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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brilliant as usual, David! Thanks again-

--

Remove all w's from my email address to reply!

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Subject: Re: journal file contents
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 05 Apr 2002 02:29:00 GMT
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Med Bennett <mwbennett@windra.com> writes:

>
> well, thanks David . . . I guess I should have said that I knew that there
> were ways in this case to get around the problem - but what if there was
> information that only the help command could give you that you wanted to show
> up in the journal file?

Or, how about HELPFORM? This will render any IDL variable as a string, expressed in the way that HELP would have rendered it. Hopefully *that* output format is not proprietary. :-)

Good luck,
Craig

<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/lib/idl/idl.html> (under Introspection)

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
