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Subject: Re: Again: How to use FORMAT like sprintf??  
Posted by [wmconolley](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2002 09:03:48 GMT  
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Brian Huether <brian.huether@dlr.de> wrote:

> What I really need to do is something like this:

> s = sprintf('SIZE(%s, /%s)', arrayname, somekeyword)

> So if arrayname is A and somekeyword is TYPE, then the resulting string  
> would be

> 'SIZE(A, /TYPE)'

So why not write

s='size('+arrayname+',/'+somekeyword+')'

-W.

--

William M Connolley | wmc@bas.ac.uk | <http://www.nerc-bas.ac.uk/icd/wmc/>  
Climate Modeller, British Antarctic Survey | Disclaimer: I speak for myself  
I'm a .signature virus! copy me into your .signature file & help me spread!

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Subject: Re: Again: How to use FORMAT like sprintf??  
Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2002 14:24:07 GMT  
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Brian Huether wrote:

>

> I posted this question and got some great answers but everytime I tried the  
> examples that you all showed me, IDL gave me this error:

>

> Unexpected text in format

>

> I am using IDL 5.2. Could that be the problem? If so, can someone explain  
> how to do what I need using version 5.2? Here is my original message:

I don't know when IDL started supporting C style format codes; it might  
not have done so yet in 5.2. In that case, you'll need to learn to use  
the Fortran-style format codes instead:

```
IDL> s = string(10, FORMAT= $  
IDL> '("IDL has been driving me crazy for the last ",10," days")' )  
IDL> print,s  
IDL has been driving me crazy for the last 10 days
```

```
IDL> arrayname='A'  
IDL> somekeyword='TYPE'  
IDL> s = string(arrayname, somekeyword, FORMAT= $  
IDL> '("SIZE(",A0," /",A0,")")' )  
IDL> print,s  
SIZE(A, /TYPE)
```

Just look in the online help, or your user's guide, for 'format codes'.

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