
Subject: Re: writing multi-column text files
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 18 Aug 2003 17:35:47 GMT
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James Bradbury wrote:

```
>  
> I have a simple floating point array  
>  
> DATA  FLOAT = array[17,48]  
>  
> that I would like to write to a text file.  
>  
> This is how I am trying to do it:  
>  
> openW, 1, 'new_data.txt'  
> printF, 1, data  
> close,1  
>  
> The problem is that when I open the IDL-written text file outside of  
> IDL, it does not have the same dimensions as it should (17 columns,  
> and 48 rows). It only has six columns... and 3 times as many rows.  
>  
> This seems like it should be VERY simple...
```

Should be. Unfortunately file I/O never is (in any language as far as I can tell :o) The problem is the default output width of ASCII files. I think it's something like 80-100 columns.

Try

```
openw, 1, 'new_data.txt', width=2000
```

This should give you 2000 output columns(characters)...more than enough for 17 data columns.

paulv

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