
Subject: Re: Format in PRINTF
Posted by [btt](#) on Tue, 27 Sep 2005 12:56:55 GMT
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coco wrote:

> Hi,
>
> I have a stringarray containing numbers and letters and want to print
> this string to a file. each line should consist of 130 arrayelements,
> each element should take two places.
>
> Using this format command: format='(130(A2))' just writes the letters,
> but not the numbers.
>

Hi,

Believe it or not - your numbers are being output - but they are being truncated, too.

```
IDL> v = 18
IDL> s = STRING(v)
IDL> print, v
      18
IDL> print, s
      18
```

The 'natural' length of an integer converted to a string is 8 characters. Note that the integer-now-string is padded on the left with spaces. Anytime you specify the output format with '(A2)' then just the first two characters are output and the rest is truncated.

```
IDL> v = '1234'
IDL> print, v, FORMAT = '(A2)'
      12
```

Where to go from here depends on what you need to do. Since you have a string array to start with you might try STRTRIM(value, 2) which strips leading and trailing blanks.

```
IDL> v = STRING(18)
IDL> s = STRTRIM(v, 2)
IDL> print, v
      18
IDL> print, s
      18
```

Make sure you have a plan for when the numbers exceed two digits in length.

Cheers,
Ben

Subject: Re: Format in PRINTF
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 27 Sep 2005 12:59:36 GMT
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coco writes:

> I have a stringarray containing numbers and letters and want to print
> this string to a file. each line should consist of 130 arrayelements,
> each element should take two places.
>
> Using this format command: format='(130(A2))' just writes the letters,
> but not the numbers.
>
> Anybody an idea???

Sorry, but I'm not buying:

```
IDL> a=['rt','56','gu','32','h5','i9']  
IDL> print, a, format='(6(A2))'  
rt56gu32h5i9
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: Format in PRINTF
Posted by [coco](#) on Tue, 27 Sep 2005 13:10:52 GMT
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Hi Ben,

I think you got my problem. When i use the strtrim command, it is working :))

Thanks a lot!!!

Cheers,
corinne
