
Subject: Re: Appending Numbers to Strings in IDL
Posted by [steve](#) on Mon, 05 Jun 2006 21:54:38 GMT
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Hey Todd,
You just need to use StrTrim to get rid of the leading spaces. So when you create your string you would do it like this:
name + StrTrim(string(variable),2)

Hope that helps,
Steve

toddbranch wrote:

> Hi everyone,
>
> I'm new to IDL, and have only been using it for two weeks. I bought
> Liam Gumley's book and it has been quite helpful so far. The program
> I'm writing requires me to identify different objects within an image.
> Since there may be more than one, I append a variable number to the end
> of the file name string to differentiate between objects.
>
> I know that you can append numbers to a string like this:
> string+string(variable)
>
> But, that leaves a lot of whitespace in front of the number. Is there
> a way to eliminate this whitespace?
> I want it to work like this:
> string+string(variable)=stringvariable, not string variable
>
> Thanks a lot for your help,
>
> Branch

Subject: Re: Appending Numbers to Strings in IDL
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 05 Jun 2006 21:57:00 GMT
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toddbranch wrote:

> Hi everyone,
>
> I'm new to IDL, and have only been using it for two weeks. I bought
> Liam Gumley's book and it has been quite helpful so far. The program
> I'm writing requires me to identify different objects within an image.
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> of the file name string to differentiate between objects.
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> But, that leaves a lot of whitespace in front of the number. Is there
> a way to eliminate this whitespace?
> I want it to work like this:
> string+string(variable)=stringvariable, not string variable

you can do

```
stringvar+strtrim(variable,2)
```

with variable = 1, 2, 3, 4,..... to give you something like

```
blah1  
blah2  
blah3  
...  
blah10  
...  
blah127  
...etc
```

or

```
stringvar+string(variable,format='(i4.4)')
```

to do stuff like

```
blah0001  
blah0002  
blah0003  
...  
blah0010  
...  
blah0127  
...etc
```

In the latter case, variable must be < 10000.

paulv

--

Paul van Delst Ride lots.
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Subject: Re: Appending Numbers to Strings in IDL
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 05 Jun 2006 21:59:46 GMT
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steve wrote:

> Hey Todd,
> You just need to use StrTrim to get rid of the leading spaces. So when
> you create your string you would do it like this:
> name + StrTrim(string(variable),2)

And, as an added bonus, you can even eliminate the string(). Strtrim does it for free! :o)

```
IDL> i=1  
IDL> print,'>',i,'<'  
> 1<  
IDL> print,'>',strtrim(i,2),'<'  
>1<
```

paulv

--

Paul van Delst Ride lots.
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Subject: Re: Appending Numbers to Strings in IDL
Posted by [toddbbranch](#) on Mon, 05 Jun 2006 22:06:13 GMT
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Awesome, thanks a lot everyone. That's perfect.

Subject: Re: Appending Numbers to Strings in IDL
Posted by [Jo Klein](#) on Tue, 06 Jun 2006 17:08:37 GMT
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> But, that leaves a lot of whitespace in front of the number. Is there
> a way to eliminate this whitespace?

Hi Branch,

You can specify a FORMAT keyword to STRING to get the numbers prettily formatted. If you just want integers without whitespace, try
string(variable,FORMAT='(I0)')

This is a very flexible approach - with FORMAT, you could also specify

the precision of floating point numbers and the like.

Jo
