
Subject: Re: anything like sprintf?

Posted by [Spon](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2008 11:43:31 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Feb 18, 11:28 am, Yann Zoll <y_z2...@yahoo.de> wrote:

> Hi newsgroup.

>

> I just wonder if there is any good looking way to do apply a preceding
> zero to a string if value is less than 10.

> To build a time string from integer values of hour, minute, second.

> In perl there is the sprintf command to do this. Is there anything like

> this in IDL?

>

> Thx, Yann

Are you looking for something as straightforward as this?

if fix(a) lt 10 then a = '0' + a

Subject: Re: anything like sprintf?

Posted by [david\[4\]](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2008 11:43:48 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In this cases i use the following instruction:

```
IF (strlen(svalue) eq 1) THEN svalue='0'+svalue
```

Where value must be the string representing your value without SPACES.

```
svalue=STRTRIM(value,2)
```

But is not very good looking i think..

Yann Zoll wrote:

> Hi newsgroup.

>

> I just wonder if there is any good looking way to do apply a preceding
> zero to a string if value is less than 10.

> To build a time string from integer values of hour, minute, second.

> In perl there is the sprintf command to do this. Is there anything like

> this in IDL?

>

> Thx, Yann

>

Subject: Re: anything like sprintf?

Posted by [lasse](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2008 12:40:37 GMT

On 18 Feb, 12:28, Yann Zoll <y_z2...@yahoo.de> wrote:

> Hi newsgroup.
>
> I just wonder if there is any good looking way to do apply a preceding
> zero to a string if value is less than 10.
> To build a time string from integer values of hour, minute, second.
> In perl there is the sprintf command to do this. Is there anything like
> this in IDL?
>
> Thx, Yann

Hi,

read about format codes in the IDL manual. There you will find that

```
x = 4  
print, string(x, format='(I02)')
```

will do exactly that. Personally, I love format codes and that it is well worth the effort to understand how to use them.

Cheers
Lasse Clausen

Subject: Re: anything like sprintf?
Posted by [Yann Zoll](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2008 12:56:28 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Thx for all the sugestions.

At the moment i use the if conditions. you need one if... per value:

if for example the problem is the time:

hh, mm, ss = hours, minutes, seconds

```
if hh lt 10 then hh = '0'+string(hh)  
if mm lt 10 ....  
if ss ...
```

```
time = strcompress(hh+':'+mm+':'+ss',/REMOVE_ALL)
```

if you encounter this problem in perl, the code looks like:

```
time = sprintf("%02d.%02d.%02d",hh,mm,ss)
```

ok, perl needs no explicit type casting as idl does so the "string()" command is necessary, but is it possible to assign the output of print (with the format keyword) to a variable?

yann

Subject: Re: anything like sprintf?

Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2008 13:20:29 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Try format code format='(i2.2)'

Haje

"Yann Zoll" <y_z2000@yahoo.de> wrote in message
news:fpbpsb\$tlp\$1@inlux3.rz.uni-kiel.de...

> Hi newsgroup.

>

> I just wonder if there is any good looking way to do apply a preceding
> zero to a string if value is less than 10.

> To build a time string from integer values of hour, minute, second.

> In perl there is the sprintf command to do this. Is there anything like
> this in IDL?

>

> Thx, Yann

Subject: Re: anything like sprintf?

Posted by [lasse](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2008 13:35:41 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 18 Feb, 13:56, Yann Zoll <y_z2...@yahoo.de> wrote:

> Thx for all the suggestions.

>

> At the moment i use the if conditions. you need one if... per value:

>

```

> if for example the problem is the time:
>
> [/color]
[color=blue]> [/color]
[color=blue]> hh, mm, ss = hours, minutes, seconds[/color]
[color=blue]> [/color]
[color=blue]> if hh lt 10 then hh = '0'+string(hh)[/color]
[color=blue]> if mm lt 10 ....[/color]
[color=blue]> if ss ...[/color]
[color=blue]> [/color]
[color=blue]> time = strcompress(hh+':' +mm+':'ss',/REMOVE_ALL)[/color]
[color=blue]> [/color]
[color=blue]> [/color]
>
> if you encounter this problem in perl, the code looks like:
>
> [/color]
[color=blue]> [/color]
[color=blue]> time = sprintf("%02d.%02d.%02d",hh,mm,ss)[/color]
[color=blue]> [/color]
[color=blue]> [/color]
>
> ok, perl needs no explicit type casting as idl does so the "string()"
> command is necessary, but is it possible to assign the output of print
> (with the format keyword) to a variable?
>
> yann

```

No, but you can use a format code for the conversion of a number to a string by specifying the format keyword, as in my example above. Again, read the IDL help on format codes. IDL uses Fortran format codes which are very similar to the stuff you already use in Perl with sprintf. Your example in IDL with format codes would be

```

hour = 2
minute = 3
second=9
time = string([hour,minute,second],$
format='(I02,".",I02,".",I02)')

```

As you can see, the three numbers are converted to a string using the STRING() function. Additionally, you can pass a format code, here I02. "I" means that the output is an integer value, i.e. no positions after the decimal point. "2" is the length of the output and "0" indicates the padding with 0 if the integer output is shorter than the length.

Read here http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/Format_Codes.htm l. On that page you will see that IDL also supports C-style formatting

which is the formatting Perl uses.

So long
Lasse Clausen

Subject: Re: anything like sprintf?
Posted by [Yann Zoll](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2008 13:52:37 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

```
>  
> hour = 2  
> minute = 3  
> second=9  
> time = string([hour,minute,second],$  
> format='(l02,".",l02,".",l02)')  
>
```

May the force be with you !!
Thats what i was lokking for, thank you.

Yann

Subject: Re: anything like sprintf?
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Mon, 18 Feb 2008 17:11:42 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Feb 18, 6:52 am, Yann Zoll <y_z2...@yahoo.de> wrote:
> May the force be with you !!
> Thats what i was lokking for, thank you.

You can use C-style format codes with a bit more notation (since you mentioned sprintf, I'm assuming you like those):

```
IDL> time = string(format='(%%02d.%%02d.%%02d)',hh,mm,ss)
```

This is a direct translation of you sprintf statement.

Mike
--
www.michaelgalloy.com
Tech-X Corporation
Software Developer II
