Subject: Re: idl format codes and output files Posted by Kenneth Bowman on Mon, 25 Feb 2008 18:50:31 GMT

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In article <82c65103-bb37-4cf3-af12-d060e5ae30d8@o10g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>, elwood <epolomsk@uwsp.edu> wrote:

- > Is there a way to use printf and a format code which takes as a
- > parameter a variable size
- > width that is calculated prior to calling printf.
- > Reason why: So that the output file will have pretty formatted
- > columns.
- > >
- > For example,
- > Suppose I have a program that prompts for a string.
- > The program doesnt know ahead of time how long the string will be.
- >
- > Then I use strlen to find its length
- > len=strlen(word)
- >
- > can I do something like the following:
- >
- > printf,1,word,format='(alen)'

A format code is just a string itself, so you can create the format in may ways, e.g.,

```
IDL> len = 20
IDL> format = '(A' + STRTRIM(len, 2) + ')'
IDL> print, format
(A20)
```

IDL> PRINT, 'This is a test string.', FORMAT = format

This is a test strin

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: idl format codes and output files Posted by Bob[3] on Mon, 25 Feb 2008 19:36:11 GMT

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On Feb 25, 1:16 pm, elwood <epolo...@uwsp.edu> wrote:

- > Is there a way to use printf and a format code which takes as a
- > parameter a variable size
- > width that is calculated prior to calling printf.

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> len=strlen(word)
> can I do something like the following:
> printf,1,word,format='(alen)'
printf,1,word,format='(a)'
-or-
printf,1,word,fromat='(a0)'
```

Subject: Re: idl format codes and output files Posted by Vince Hradil on Mon, 25 Feb 2008 21:25:42 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

```
On Feb 25, 1:36 pm, Bob Crawford <Snowma...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Feb 25, 1:16 pm, elwood <epolo...@uwsp.edu> wrote:
>> Is there a way to use printf and a format code which takes as a
>> parameter a variable size
>> width that is calculated prior to calling printf.
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>> For example,
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>> printf,1,word,format='(alen)'
 printf,1,word,format='(a)'
> -or-
```

```
> printf,1,word,fromat='(a0)'
```

To be more precise, yes you can create a string and pass it to the format keyword. For example:

```
read, iwid, prompt="Input width: "
fmt='(I' + strtrim(iwid,2) + ')'
printf, lun, val, format=fmt
```