
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 doesn't 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 many 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:

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> printf,1,word,format='(a)'

```
printf,1,word,format='(a)'
```

-or-

```
printf,1,word,format='(a0)'
```

Subject: Re: idl format codes and output files
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Mon, 25 Feb 2008 21:25:42 GMT
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On Feb 25, 1:36 pm, Bob Crawford <Snowma...@gmail.com> wrote:

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

```
>  
> printf,1,word,format='(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='(' + strtrim(iwid,2) + ')'  
printf, lun, val, format=fmt
```
