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Subject: simple FORMAT question for the experts  
Posted by [Ryan](#) on Thu, 10 Jul 2008 20:10:21 GMT  
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Hi,

I know this is a simple question for some, but for me who has not yet become a master in formatting syntax I can't seem to get it right. I am outputting a large number of files and on one line of those files, I output a list of string values. The challenging part is that for each file the list changes so the number of elements with a comma separating each one and I would like to have one consistent format string (if possible). I know I can combine strings with the number of elements of the array but prefer not to go that route.

Here is a sample:

```
array = ['a','b','c','d','e']  
print, 1S, 'Text', array, FORMAT='(I02, " ", A0, " :", A0, :, ",")'
```

I want this as a result:

```
01 Text :a,b,c,d,e
```

But I get this:

```
03 Text :a,  
00 b :c,  
00 d :e
```

Can anyone suggest where I'm going wrong?

Thanks,  
Ryan.

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Subject: Re: simple FORMAT question for the experts  
Posted by [Sven Geier](#) on Sat, 12 Jul 2008 19:45:05 GMT  
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Ryan. wrote:

```
> Here is a sample:  
> array = ['a','b','c','d','e']  
> print, 1S, 'Text', array, FORMAT='(I02, " ", A0, " :", A0, :, ",")'  
>  
> I want this as a result:  
> 01 Text :a,b,c,d,e  
>  
> But I get this:  
> 03 Text :a,
```

```
> 00 b :c,  
> 00 d :e
```

I may be misunderstanding what you're trying to do, but when I type this:

```
array = ['a','b','c','d','e']  
print, 1S, 'Text', array, FORMAT='(I02, " ", A0, " :", 99(A0, :, ","))'
```

I get this:

```
01 Text :a,b,c,d,e
```

-- S

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<http://www.sgeier.net>

My real email address does not contain any "Z"s.

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Subject: Re: simple FORMAT question for the experts

Posted by [Ryan](#). on Mon, 14 Jul 2008 14:25:54 GMT

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> I may be misunderstanding what you're trying to do, but when I type this:

>

```
> array = ['a','b','c','d','e']
```

```
> print, 1S, 'Text', array, FORMAT='(I02, " ", A0, " :", 99(A0, :, ","))'
```

>

> I get this:

>

```
> 01 Text :a,b,c,d,e
```

Hi Steve,

That does give me what I need by putting an arbitrarily large number in front of it but I have already modified it so it will print the exact number of array elements. I like your solution because it is much simpler than what I currently have.

Thanks,  
Ryan.