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Subject: Re: turn a string value into variable name  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 22:56:27 GMT  
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Nick writes:

> I am restoring over 100 .sav files and creating structures for  
> analysis. Each .sav represents a different scenario and ideally I  
> would like to name the created structure in sequential format (case1,  
> case2...casen).  
>  
> To pull the data in I am using a for loop (all .sav have identical  
> array names) and I'd like to use the counter to name the variable. Is  
> it possible to turn a string into a variable name?

The EXECUTE command can do this:

```
FOR j=0,n DO BEGIN
  IF Execute('case' + String(j, Format='(I3.3)') + $
    '= mysavedStruct') EQ 0 THEN $
    Print, 'We have a failure to execute!'
ENDFOR
```

At one time there was a limit on the number of new variables that could be created this way inside an IDL program. I believe that limit has been removed.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming ([www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com))  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: turn a string value into variable name  
Posted by [Nick\[2\]](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 23:04:53 GMT  
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Thank you very much David!

Nick

On Oct 23, 4:56 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Nick writes:  
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Subject: Re: turn a string value into variable name  
Posted by [greg.addr](#) on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 13:08:37 GMT  
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That works, but wouldn't it be better to bring them into an array?  
Otherwise you'll meet the same problem when you want to calculate  
something with them..

```
scenario=ptrarr(n)
for i=0,n-1 do begin
  ...
  scenario[i]=ptr_new(mySavedStruct)
endfor
```

...

DoSomething,\*(scenario[j])

good luck,

Greg

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Subject: Re: turn a string value into variable name  
Posted by [loebasboy](#) on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 13:18:44 GMT  
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On 23 okt, 23:56, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
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Thank you David, I had the same question !

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Subject: Re: turn a string value into variable name  
Posted by [sher.astro](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2012 09:55:17 GMT  
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>  
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> Print, 'We have a failure to execute!'  
> ENDFOR  
it's helpful. thanks a lot  
>  
> At one time there was a limit on the number of new  
> variables that could be created this way inside an  
> IDL program. I believe that limit has been removed.  
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