
Subject: Converting a string to variable name

Posted by [atmospheric physics](#) on Mon, 28 Oct 2013 10:17:49 GMT

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Hello,

I have written the following lines in IDL:

```
-----  
week01 = ['2013_04_09', '2013_04_10', '2013_04_11']  
w_no=indgen(15)+1  
Nw=0  
week_no=STRCOMPRESS('week0'+STRING(w_no[Nw]),/REMOVE_ALL)  
-----
```

```
IDL> print,week_no  
week01  
IDL> help,week_no  
WEEK_NO      STRING   = 'week01'  
IDL> print,week01  
2013_04_09 2013_04_10 2013_04_11  
IDL> help,week01  
WEEK01      STRING   = Array[3]
```

I want to call 'week01' array defined above by 'week_no'. Can anyone help me to obtain week_no=week01=[['2013_04_09', '2013_04_10', '2013_04_11']?

Thanks in advance

Subject: Re: Converting a string to variable name

Posted by [Moritz Fischer](#) on Mon, 28 Oct 2013 10:30:51 GMT

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Take a look at 'scope_varfetch'!

m

Am 28.10.2013 11:17, schrieb Madhavan Bomidi:

> Hello,

>

> I have written the following lines in IDL:

>

> ----- week01 =

> ['2013_04_09', '2013_04_10', '2013_04_11'] w_no=indgen(15)+1 Nw=0

> week_no=STRCOMPRESS('week0'+STRING(w_no[Nw]),/REMOVE_ALL)

> -----

>

```
> IDL> print,week_no week01 IDL> help,week_no WEEK_NO      STRING
> = 'week01' IDL> print,week01 2013_04_09 2013_04_10 2013_04_11 IDL>
> help,week01 WEEK01      STRING    = Array[3]
>
> I want to call 'week01' array defined above by 'week_no'. Can anyone
> help me to obtain week_no=week01=[['2013_04_09', '2013_04_10',
> '2013_04_11']]?
>
> Thanks in advance
>
>
```

Subject: Re: Converting a string to variable name
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Mon, 28 Oct 2013 10:37:07 GMT
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```
print,scope_varfetch(week_no)
```

Cheers, Heinz

Subject: Re: Converting a string to variable name
Posted by [atmospheric physics](#) on Mon, 28 Oct 2013 10:39:09 GMT
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Thank you Moritz and Heinz. It works!!!

Subject: Re: Converting a string to variable name
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sun, 03 Nov 2013 20:13:53 GMT
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On Monday, October 28, 2013 6:39:09 AM UTC-4, Madhavan Bomidi wrote:

```
> Thank you Moritz and Heinz. [SCOPE_VARFETCH] works!!!
```

This is like cutting off your finger in order to fit your hand in a mitten. It will probably work now, but you will be in pain later.

Use proper parameters and/or keyword arguments to transfer data from one calling level to another.

Craig

Subject: Re: Converting a string to variable name

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 03 Nov 2013 20:17:18 GMT

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Craig Markwardt writes:

> This is like cutting off your finger in order to fit your hand in a mitten. It will probably work now, but you will be in pain later.

I've been scratching my head for *weeks* for the perfect metaphor to describe this situation, and here it is! ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Converting a string to variable name

Posted by [Russell Ryan](#) on Mon, 04 Nov 2013 19:26:07 GMT

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I agree with David and Craig. There have been a very few number of cases where I genuinely needed to do something like this, and I've been an avid IDL fan for 10 years. I highly doubt you need to do this, and I strongly recommend you against it.

If you must, and you don't like scope_varfetch. Also look at execute, but scope_varfetch is WAY better...

Russell
