Subject: Re: Q: Use of variables with FORMAT Posted by gunter on Thu, 09 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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I (gunter@alpha1.csd.uwm.edu) wrote the following clueless post:

: Suppose I need to print a line of 100 3-digit integers including a single : space in between each one. Then I would use the following:

printf, unit, data_array, format='(10014)'

: where the data_array contains 100 elements in this case. However, this line : appears inside of a routine to wich data_array is passed and data_array does : not always contain 100 elements. Is there some way of replacing the '100' : in the above line with a variable? I've tried the obvious ways I could : think of, to no avail.

Of course I didn't think of the MOST obvious solution, as pointed out to me by a few people. Since the FORMAT keyword wants a string, just assemble it based on the number of elements in the data_array. This works:

```
form_string = "'(" + strtrim(string(n_elements(data_array)),2) + "I4)'" printf, unit, data_array, format=form_string
```

Note the use of the double quotes so that the single quote can be included.

-david