Subject: Re: PostScript and IDL Posted by Mike Schienle on Wed, 27 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Mirko Vukovic (mirko\_vukovic@notes.mrc.sony.com) writes:

- >> Dick and I have been kicking around the idea of writing a class
- > > library of direct graphics objects that we could offer for
- > > sale.

>

> No, NO, NOooo!

>

- > Not for sale. Give it away freely, let it go forth and multiply,
- > and then write books and give lectures for it. You will make some
  - > money, but will be revered.

This is actually my idea too. I would much rather be revered

than rich. But my wife points out that our retirement program

seems to be carting the kids to all manner of athletic endeavors

in hopes that one of them turns out to be a professional athlete. :-(

My hopes are pinned on the youngest, after he twice scored 6 goals

in a game in a soccer tournament this weekend. :-)

I'm sure Mirko was responding in jest, but it brings up a point that may be missed by some folks.

The reality of the situation is that giving away things for free leads to ... giving away more things for free. I maintain the FAQ for this newsgroup and nearly every week I receive private email asking to help solve a problem with IDL. Not once has a free solution I've offered turned into something tangible, nor do I expect it to. I'm not complaining, just pointing out the reality. David Fanning routinely offers applications to the group that I'm sure have taken him several hours, if not days, to create. It's unfortunate, but our society and spouses/family require some modicum of income to provide support and maintenance, not unlike software.

Personally, I would love to see David Fanning put a price tag on his PS\_Form program, as well as several others. I'd send him a check for PS\_Form without hesitation. If our user community could commit to things like this, I'm convinced there would be a hell of a lot more programs available for IDL and PV-WAVE and we wouldn't have to reinvent so many wheels. When I ask for changes to a program from David, there is a hesitation about asking for something which I've not invested any time or money in, and I suspect others feel similarly. Consequently, I'll make the changes myself and roll them back into any updates as they come along.

Any other thoughts along these lines? And yes, I do have an ulterior motive.

Mike Schienle