
Subject: Re: IDL 5.2 reviews?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 03 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Allan Beihl (beihl@ti.com) writes:

> Along these lines, does any one know if there are any Foundation Classes for
> IDL, like MFC for windows or JFC/Swing for Java?
>
> It would be nice to have some classes that encapsulated applications, windows,
> ect. Then all one would have to do is derive the app and windows and override
> any events they would want to catch, instead of writing and rewriting the same
> UI code....

Ah, well, it's not a Foundation Class, but this is the whole purpose of my program XWINDOW.

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/xwindow.pro>

I **always** want resizable graphics windows that can send the contents of the window to a PostScript, JPEG, GIF file etc. Here is a program that can do that for **any** IDL graphics procedure (including any you care to invent) if they follow four simple rules:

- (1) Are not defined with more than three positional parameters. (An unlimited number of keywords are allowed.)
- (2) Are defined with an `_EXTRA` keyword.
- (3) Do not open their own windows.
- (4) Do not use a "DEVICE, DECOMPOSED=0" command. (This is a new limitation and was exposed by the way colors now work on the PC. :-)

For example, you could use it with the `SHADE_SURF` command like this:

```
IDL> XWindow, 'Shade_Surf', dist(40), /XColors, /Output, $  
      Shades=BytScl(dist(40), Top=!D.N_Colors-1), AZ=45
```

Note, this program needs three other programs from my library to work properly:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/xcolors.pro>
<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/pswindow.pro>

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/ps_form.pro

Taken as a whole, these programs are a "foundation class" for constructing a whole variety of applications. (I have, perhaps, just given away the whole store with respect to a very lucrative consulting business. Oh, well, now that I know how to print object graphics programs I can get into that line of work. :-)

Cheers,

David

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Phone: 970-221-0438, Toll-Free Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
