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Subject: Re: Free IDL Software

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 09 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Jon Kimber writes:

> I think that is certainly better than a goto in that circumstance. I  
> had to use that several times in the ptr\_free program I wrote (see  
> post of 04/03/99), but then no-one would know about that been as not  
> one person has looked at it - oh well I'll leave programs that are of  
> use to others to the likes of DWF.

I wouldn't get discouraged that no one bothers to download your software, Jon. Like any advertising, you have to let people know five or six times that it is available before anyone stirs themselves to check it out. Then I would estimate 95% of the people who check it out won't use it. Not because they don't need it, but because they perceive they don't have time to learn it. (Sometimes this is the fault of the software author who doesn't provide a LOT of help in the documentation.)

I'm as guilty of this as anyone and I've been on the other side of it for a long time. Heck, I wrote my book and charge an arm and a leg for it just so someone will use the software I provide for free. That's how desperate I am to be famous. If I gave the book away no one would be reading that either. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. What you live for as a software (or book) author are those nice e-mails from people who DO use what you offer. I've put a couple of mine up on my web page just to remind myself what it's all about.

[http://www.dfanning.com/documents/book\\_comments.html](http://www.dfanning.com/documents/book_comments.html)

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

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