
Subject: IDL 5.3

Posted by [Nick Bower](#) on Sun, 20 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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I was encouraged to place this to the discussion group. It was written to a group of users at work in response to discussion about the ppt slides documenting the IDL 5.3 product. I'm tentative about posting this, for obvious reasons, but maybe someone at RSI will shed some light about what drives IDL development.

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so how long have RSI had since bringing out 5? 2-3 years or something like that?

People may aggressively disagree with me here, but I was expecting something a little more to stay in the running with MatLab. It seems they've just added on a few components here and there, improved the documentation/help and totally misused the term applet, and there you have it, 5.3 without addressing any real issues.

Granted, the development environment should be interesting, and the binary reader/applets/etc too, but these things are all just add-ons imho and represent nothing more than what 3rd party developers could have written. I say leave that stuff to the 3rd party developers, because usually they'll do it better (and it's better that way for the end user too), and if RSI are going to limit development, they should concentrate on the core IDL-machine aspects of better GUI's/visualization, including a real object language and getting the maths right.

BTW - Anyone notice they've dropped the Objects / Object Graphics manual with 5.3? Does this mean they've abandoned the concept altogether? :(

sorry 'bout this - IDL is useful, and i'd be lost without it, but there are many things about it that i hate with a passion, many of the reasons made obvious by the 5.3 release.

nick

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Nick Bower
Space Science and Engineering Center
University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA
Phone: (608) 265 8007
Email: nick.bower@ssec.wisc.edu
Web: <http://arm1.ssec.wisc.edu/~nickb>
