

---

Subject: Re: Widgets

Posted by [Richard G. French](#) on Sun, 10 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning wrote:

>

> I think Dick is confusing IDL with the Interface Definition Language.

> I can't imagine it would ever take "months" to write a program

> in the IDL language usually referred to in this newsgroup. :-)

>

Thanks, David - just what I need is another project on my plate! That old program was written using the 'curses' library in C - well-named, by the way - and all of the plotting was done in tektronix mode. Oh, if only there had been a mouse in those days! It took forever to write, but we tested the devil out of it, and I can't stand the thought of going through all that work again. SO much of the effort went into things we don't care about now:

- limited memory (had to be done using overlays in 64 Kbyte chunks)
- limited disk space (had to run on total of 5 Mbytes)
- slow execution time

The result is that to handle all of those things, the computations had to be

done in pieces and in a non-intuitive order. Going back to the drawing board

and rewriting things would mean a complete overhaul, not just translation of

loops into simple IDL statements. I'd be better off dropping the workstation

off of a tall building and starting from scratch. If I break my leg and am in

a body cast for six months, maybe I will do that!

Dick

---