I do agree that the shareware concept is a great idea but I have never
purchased shareware code myself and do not use most of the freeware code
that is available. I am also a research oriented programmer and I
consider the programming to be a lot of the enjoyment of the entire
process. Unless I am strapped for time preparing for a presentation (as
is currently the case) I really enjoy writing my own routines for
plotting, creating postscript, image manipulation, etc.

For me it is not so much the purchase order problems as it is missing
out on the fun of the mental creativity portion. Because my own code
only needs to satisfy me and does not need to work on all platforms I
can write most specific routines in less than a day, although I would
never give my code to a stranger and expect them to understand how to
use it.

Additionally, I usually do not need all of the bells and whistles that
come with a professional program. For example, the postscript program
David has just put up. I have my own set of routines that do everything
I ever find myself wanting to do with postscript (with the exception of
putting titles on individual pages but I think that that is something
IDL cannot do), thus spending money on additional functions that I would
rarely use does not seem worth it.

Just another point of view. However, for the sake of the IDL community
in general I hope the shareware idea catches on.

Cheers,
eddie

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