
Subject: Re: IDL Shareware

Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Fri, 14 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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I'm all in favour of shareware.

Shareware is a great idea. You get quality programs for a very cheap price. You can't beat it.

I'd buy any program that was even a little bit useful, especially if there was a convenient secure credit-card-accepting webpage.

I think RSi should step in here and offer up such a page on their web site (I assume there isn't one now) to let everyone put there shareware, and have rsi take in the credit card money, and distribute it to the authors.

The reason I say this (and I do realize that it will never happen, because like all of my brilliant ideas, they are somewhat lacking in brilliance) is that IDL really needs user contributed files. And needs them organized logically and all in one place. I realize there are large libraries available on the web, but it is a little hard to find what you need quickly. It should be as convenient and fast as possible to purchase/download the code.

If users contributed more in hopes of getting a little pocket money (to spend on beer of course), then IDL becomes a more attractive product.

Also, shareware would invite competition, and let the users decide what code is worthwhile. Currently RSI accepts proposals for toolboxes to be written, but RSI does not have the expertise to decide who should do what, as evidenced by their rejection of my proposal ;)

I think if RSI is going to capture a larger market share, they have to have some to play along with the "toolbox" marketing scheme (like the much hated (by me) matlab). I have matlab's latest release, with a whole handful of toolboxes, and they have more functions that I can count. IDL in comparison is barren of functions (referring to mostly math/numerical analysis etc. types of functions).

In fact, you guys* have inspired me. I'll write up two packages i've been thinking about and shareware them up. Look for an announcement sometime in early '05!

*(in the non-gender specific usage)

Well, I'm anxiously awaiting the unveiling of the RSI (or Fanning) shareware page full of incredibly useful stuff written by everyone who has ever posted in this newgroup.

adios,
bob

--

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PS I strongly urge people to not to handicap the code.

PPS hey, the hell with RSi, dfanning.com should put up the page. Dave deserves more money!

Sent via Deja.com <http://www.deja.com/>
Before you buy.
