
Subject: Re: IDL Shareware

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 14 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Ralph Lorenz (rlorenz@LPL.Arizona.EDU) writes:

- > I think part of the problem is that most IDL users are research-
- > oriented. If I can find a piece of code quickly that will do what
- > I want it to do, I'll use it, and many astronomy users provide
- > libraries of routines on the web.
- >
- > If, however, to use said piece of code, I need to have my department
- > write a check, or I need to worry about invoices etc, the effort to me
- > becomes disproportionate . I'd rather spend 2 hours
- > trying to code something than 1 hour doing paperwork to buy it..
- >
- > I know that may sound perverse (plus I know that the stuff you guys are
- > talking about is way more sophisticated anyway and probably takes
- > hundreds of hours to code)

I've been hearing this so often lately it's finally beginning to sink through even my thick skull.

I don't know why I'm wasting my time trying to write a book about object programming. The potential market for it must consist of about 10 programmers, who don't need a book anyway.

I think I'll shift gears, take the stuff I have and put it into the last chapters of a brand new IDL Programming Techniques book (where no one will have to read them), and write IDL Recipes: What to Do If You Only Have 10 Minutes a Day to Work with IDL. I'm pretty sure sales of this one would be brisk.

Plus, I could charge an extra \$50 to get all the neat programs I talk about in the book. (Assuming I can get them to work.) That would be consistent with my observation that you have to charge people something to make them want to use your free software. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. On second thought, I could get the book to market about six months sooner if I called it IDL Recipes: What to Do If You Only Have 10 Minutes a Day to Work with IDL

on your Windows PC.

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