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Subject: Re: idl2matlab translate-o-matic  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 22 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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David McClain (dmccclain@azstarnet.com) writes:

> Perhaps "better than MatLab", but hardly what "professional programmers"  
> want.

Well, I admit I didn't conduct a scientific study, but  
I was thinking about what my friends and I like. We're  
pretty professional, at least most of the time. Say before  
the beer arrives. :-)

> What can you say of a language that is purely array oriented, but  
> cannot comprehend the existence of an empty array?

I don't know. I don't know what an empty array is either.  
Perhaps that's why I like IDL.

> What of a language that  
> can itself reclaim memory from unused arrays, but forces the user to reclaim  
> "pointers" and "objects"? Etc., etc., ...

I'm sorry, but I think this *\*completely\** misses the point.  
Cleaning up variables is one thing, but checking for *\*every\**  
pointer reference at the end of every program module that  
exits would bring just about any program--never mind IDL--  
to a complete stand-still. It shouldn't be done. I applaud  
the folks at RSI for dismissing the idea out of hand.

Cheers,

David

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