
Subject: Re: Top 10 IDL Requests

Posted by [Nicolas Decoster](#) on Mon, 17 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi.

Here are few thoughts/wishes I had while writing IDL code.

* A very interesting thing for beginners and for code clarity is to replace the use of integer values by strings for arguments like `line_style` of object graphics (like `IDLgrPlot`). As suggested by Patrick Broos, it would be nice too to be able to use named colors ("red").

* Postscript output of object graphics. This was the main subject of my "newsgroup activity", and I think efforts can be done to have some improvements. In particular, I think about the postscript order of objects that is different than the object graphics tree one. But perhaps this point is fix in IDL 5.4 ?

* On line object/named-structures development. With IDL 5.3 you can't change a named structure on the fly. When you work on a new object graphic or any object or structure, if you add or remove a field you must exit/re-enter IDL for the modification to be effective. It is a bit painful, and you loose the interest of the use of a scripting language.

* The best thing that can happened to IDL, is to open its source. But, well, perhaps RSI prefers other development models. I must be a little bit idealistic.

Thanks.

Nicolas.

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