
Subject: Re: Top 10 IDL Requests

Posted by [Dennis Boccippio](#) on Sun, 16 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <MPG.13db815b76724572989b5b@news.frii.com>, davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:

> Hi Folks,
>
> I was teaching an IDL course at RSI this past week
> <snip>...
> So, here is the deal. If you feel inclined to
> submit a couple of ideas to this newsgroup, I
> will collect them and submit them personally
> to the VP. I'll even follow up and make sure
> he has, uh, read them. :-)
>

I'll definitely toss a couple in. And I second the vote for putting the table widget out of its misery.

- Work on improving / optimizing the speed of IDL objects and related outgrowths - these seem amazingly flexible, but so many object-driven widgets or apps seem unacceptably sluggish. I'd be more inclined to delve into object-driven code if I could be assured the end result would be more responsive than some of the object graphics, e.g.
- Adding some basic neural network algorithms to the stock procedures (I'm interested from a category classification standpoint, and IDL's flexibility at I/O and workability with large datasets seems to make it well suited for handling the large training/validation sets needed to drive nn's, as well as the visualization needed to tune them (As an aside, is anyone aware of any 3rd party nn implementations for IDL?))
- This is very picayune, and major strides have been made, but RSI needs to finish the job on HDF VDATAs. The browser and interface routines currently can't handle mixed-data-type vdatas, which for us results in an awful lot of unpack-the-byte-array code that needs to be written. We only use HDF for large datasets, where the overhead seems justified, and for these it makes alot of sense to use the minimum necessary data type for each vdata "column". Perhaps RSI's ties to Fortner (Noesys) could get them access to the necessary underlying code?
- Indirectly IDL: Add a WHERE node to VIP, and somehow make loops more visually distinctive
- Not a development issue, but perhaps lower the price on runtime

licensing...

- Dennis
