
Subject: Re: Top 10 IDL Requests

Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Tue, 18 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Has anyone else noticed that despite David's assurance that no hip programmer would be seen dead fixing old code, that's exactly what all of us want RSI to do? They probably hope we're all locked into legacy code

In my group at least one of the major reasons people haven't been persuaded to buy IDL has been the need to learn a whole new bag of workarounds. Reliable, predictable keyword use and mathematical accuracy may not be sexy, but it's something people actually want.

Looking at the Matlab evil empire (Boo Hiss) and my favourite quality graphing program (Igor) one other thing IDL doesn't offer is easy interfacing to data acquisition hardware or the web. For sophisticated control you need to get your hands dirty with C++ or ION\$\$\$\$, but it's amazing how much can be achieved with a few simple vendor-provided hooks for text or raw binary io. We just interfaced an old VME crate to Igor on the Mac using strings dumped into text files and Personal Web Sharing. Took a morning, and most of that was reading the VME ethernet card manual.

Struan
