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Subject: Re: It costs how much?!?!?

Posted by [Nick Bower](#) on Wed, 06 Dec 2000 03:54:34 GMT

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>> Bill - if you're a linux user, you may try PyDL (plug).

>>

>> <http://nickbower.com/computer/pydl/>

>

> This looked very promising until I found that the library (DSLIN) you  
> built all the graphics around is proprietary and without source. Free  
> for linux (yes) but the binary is built for your system (i.e. me with  
> solaris x86 and linuxPPC machines is out of luck) ... too bad, like I  
> said, it looked very promising. There is no way you can build around a  
> GNU graphics library?

a good point. as Paul said, PyDL was developed in <4 weeks as proof of concept for a physics department presentation. This precluded any sort of DIY interfaces to existing C plotting libraries. I would like to move over to a free alternative, and have been recommended to use a GTK option. I'll look at this more after I submit my thesis in 8 weeks.

> One final note, to those who commented about RSI not being interested in  
> marketing or selling to graduate students... That is a very poor  
> marketing practice! People are creatures of habit. If you get all of  
> the physics graduate students using IDL, then you will have 90% of them  
> going out to industry and purchasing IDL.

I don't think this always applies. If you move to any sort of large industry with in-house processing software, you'll probably be using that. I went to the SSEC, I used IDL. I go somewhere else, I'll use whatever they use there to take advantage of the existing code-base.

nick

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