
Subject: IDLSpecIII -- Volunteer Needed

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Fri, 08 Jun 2001 04:45:37 GMT

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I posted this deep in another thread, but thought I might just put it out for all too see. Sorry for the wasted bits.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

I'd like to solicit volunteers to help construct IDLSpecIII, which will likely be based from IDLv5.5, including the MasOSX version, and will probably be hand rolled, rather than based on the problematic time_test suite supplied by RSI. I am happy to take care of the management and building the site. What I need most are performance nuts who want to devise reasonably taxing tests of processor, I/O, and graphics speed. I'm open to the idea of Object Graphics tests too, but I don't have much experience there. Among the desiderata:

1. A suite of processor-intensive tests (must fit in memory -- we don't want to test the Virtual Memory of the OS with this! -- is 32MB a reasonable assumption for free real memory available to IDL?). Some of the tests in !DIR/lib/time_test.pro are relevant: array addition, for loop speed, matrix inversion, etc. I'd like to add more "real world" processor-intensive code, based on common user operations. (Histogram, anyone?)
2. A suite of several I/O performance tests. Currently only read/writes of a 512x512 byte array (that's right, 256kB) occur. This obviously fits in the disk cache of most hard drives, not to mention the OS cache. 10-50MB is probably a more reasonable test size. Is 100MB reasonable, in the context of multi-GB drives?
3. A suite of direct graphics tests. The standard graphics_times may suffice here, with maybe a pixmap copy added. Others?
4. (Possible) A suite a object graphics tests, with and without hardware rendering enabled. This one will be all over the map, I suspect. To run this test, users **must** specify a video card.

The chief guiding principle to keep in mind is separation of subsystem taxed: mixing processor tests with I/O tests (as is hard to avoid on modern VM/cached OS's) dilutes their discriminatory power.

Please let me know if you're interested.

Thanks,

JD
