
Subject: Re: Sacrilegious but genuine question
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2002 10:28:20 GMT
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Francis Burton wrote:

- > How easy would it be to obtain the functionality of IDL by
- > using Python as the underlying language glue, supplemented
- > by hard-coded modules for image, signal & file processing,
- > graphical I/O etc.? It seems that it can already do that in
- > some problem domains - e.g. Python Imaging Library.

That might provide some functionality for image processing. But what about all the other graphics/visualization capabilities of IDL? To emulate those you need to find other Python add-ons, each with its own peculiarities, build and install them, configure them to do what you want and maybe they'll come somewhere near what IDL can do out of the box.

- >
- > Put another way: What are the advantages of IDL compared to
- > such an open source framework?

Support and functionality

(unless you own a Mac - but we're not going there again are we?)

What do you do when the author of your favorite Python add-on gets bored with Python and decides to go on to do something else?

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