
Subject: Re: Sacrilegious but genuine question
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2002 19:38:02 GMT
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"Liam E. Gumley" <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> writes:

- > 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.
- >
- > <http://nickbower.com/computer/pydl> is a first cut.
- >
- >> Put another way: What are the advantages of IDL compared to
- >> such an open source framework?
- >
- > It depends on what your goal is.
- >
- > If your goal is to read, analyze, and visualize data for the purpose of
- > earning a living or obtaining a degree, then I'd use IDL.
- >
- > If your goal is to have fun writing new code for which you don't get
- > paid or earn any credits, then I'd roll your own open source solution in
- > Python (if you can get someone to pay you for it, well done).

I've thought about this kind of question before too. I think there is another question:

If your need is to use one of the many library functions written in IDL, either already available in the IDL distribution, or available on the internet, then use IDL. Use and compatibility of existing libraries is a huge issue for me.

Craig

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Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
