
Subject: Re: Sacrilegious but genuine question
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2002 18:16:44 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.

<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).

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
<http://www.gumley.com/>
