
Subject: Re: Sacrilegious but genuine question
Posted by [rmw092001](#) on Thu, 10 Jan 2002 02:55:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"Liam E. Gumley" <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote in message
news:<3C3B378C.F85C497E@ssec.wisc.edu>...

> 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/>

It's a pity RSI don't make a decent, inexpensive 'IDL Limited Edition'
- just file read/writing, numbercrunching, plotting etc - no widgets,
object graphics or industrial stuff. IDL 'student edition' restricts
array sizes so much it's almost useless. If pydl effectively becomes
IDL-LE, that would be great.

Richard
