Subject: Re: Sacrilegious but genuine guestion Posted by rmw092001 on Thu, 10 Jan 2002 02:55:57 GMT

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"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