
Subject: The IDL Book Bidness

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 12 Dec 2002 16:33:16 GMT

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Folks,

Last night I was deep into spline functions and becoming confused when I suddenly thought "Screw it, this seems too much like work!"

The thought suddenly triggered memories of writing my first book, almost exactly five years ago now. I remember finishing and writing the forward at 7PM on Christmas Eve night. No presents purchased. No thought to the season. Just one goal in mind: finish that &!*\$ book!

In all those years, I have never counted up how many books I sold. I did last night. Are you sitting down?

4365

Wow! I had 1000 covers printed for the First Edition and I remember thinking, "Now *that* was a waste of good money!"

You can make up the numbers yourself, but I can assure you that book has allowed me to spend a lot of time here on the newsgroup swapping lies rather than looking for gainful employment. :-)

In a time when it is appropriate to count your blessings, I just want to say again how much I appreciate everyone in the IDL community who has made it possible to make a living doing something I love. Thanks to all of you.

Best Regards,

David

P.S. Let's just say that when I showed the numbers to my wife I suddenly learned that I would be writing *another* book real soon now. :-)

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