
Subject: Re: RFC 1: Common functions for beginners
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 14 May 2003 23:23:15 GMT
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Ed Wright (ed.wright@jpl.nasa.gov) writes:

> I have a request for comments (just like the IETF).
>
> I learned the basics of IDL use and programming over a long time interval
> while writing the magnum opus of dlms. Rather than have new users repeat my
> learning process, I'd like your suggestions for the twenty or so most common
> IDL functions a new user should understand.
>
> I mean most basic-most used. Open file, read numbers, plot numbers, write
> text, close file.

OK, I'll get us started. The first thing a new user
of IDL should know is DEVICE, DECOMPOSED=0. I taught
an IDL class recently to a group of users who had
been using IDL almost 6 months before I got there.
They didn't know IDL could draw anything except red
lines on a black background. :-(

Cheers,

David

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