JD Smith writes:

> As Pavel points out, if
> you can do a substantial amount of work in each loop iteration -- more
> than the large constant overhead imposed by that cycle -- "for" loops
> can give perfectly good performance (despite the quasi-fanatical
> facetious rantings to the contrary you may find on certain respected
> IDL resource sites).

Every time I go away for a few days I am amazed
at what goes on in this newsgroup. And my wife
wonders why the first thing I do when I return
home is rush to see what's happened on the
IDL newsgroup (even before I give her a kiss)! (Sigh...)

While poor Bruno is sifting through the runes,
trying to ferret out the amazing abilities of IDL
from the tea leaves scattered in front of him,
I should just point out that some of the basics
are available for his perusal and illumination.
(Mostly written by JD, or course, serving this
year as Exalted Grand Illuminator of the Secrets
and Treasures by unanimous vote of the IDL Expert
Programmers Association members at the annual
big hoobah.)

I refer, of course, to the Dimensional Juggling
Tutorial: Working array manipulation magic with
REBIG and REFORM:

  http:/www.dfanning.com/tips/rebin_magic.html

The Array Concatenation Tutorial: Achieving harmonious
spiritual balance with nested brackets:

  http:/www.dfanning.com/tips/array_concatenation.html

And (if your brain hasn't exploded yet) the infamous
Histogram: The breathless horror and disgust:

  http://www.dfanning.com/tips/histogram_tutorial.html

And perhaps most germane to this topic, these three don't-
miss articles:

Are FOR Loops the Embodiment of Pure Evil?
  http://www.dfanning.com/tips/forloops.html

Wow! Are FOR loops really as bad as JD says they are?
  http://www.dfanning.com/tips/forloops2.html

Whoa! Does it take, like, a *ton* of memory to subscript arrays?
  http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips.submemory.html

I have a feeling this thread may end up there, too.
Anytime you speed IDL up from 24 days to 24 seconds
you really ought to write the steps down so you can
remember it. :-)

Cheers,

David
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