Subject: Re: controlling itools (low level)
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Mon, 15 Sep 2003 08:31:31 GMT
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"Richard G. French" <rfrench@wellesley.edu> writes:

>
> I hope that itools will make it possible to tweak an image interactively,
> but then to preserve all of the information necessary to regenerate the
> image from scratch using IDL code. Add my name to the list of people
> interested in learning how to do this.

Dick, your audit trail approach is exactly what I do as well. I
attended RSI's IDL 6.0 presentation where I work, and many many other
attendees were asking the same questions that you and I were. Namely:
can I substitute other data into the same plot template? How do I
track the history? Can I save it as a script? I did not see any
demonstrated mechanism to export a script. The iTools format is an
opaque binary format which is certainly not a script.

The current answer from RSI was, "we can't do that now, but we're
real keen on this for a future release!" (paraphrase)

Alas, from what I saw, RSI would be focussing on the templating
aspect, not the "audit trail." However, I think it is important for
RSI to realize that if you can export the plot configuration, then
that script *is* the template as well. I imagine that most of what
the batch-processing people want is to tweak the format template
interactively using iTools, export a script which has placeholders for
the data, and then incorporate that script into their batch programs.

Craig

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