
Subject: Re: modifying itools (ivolume)

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 23 Nov 2003 22:11:27 GMT

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Erica Stanley writes:

> Can anybody provide any insight into modifying itools or creating your
> own itool applications? In particular, I would like to modify ivolume
> to not only render the desired volume but also render icons(in my
> case, IDLgrPolygon objects) within the volume at specified positions.
> I've been reading through the itools documentation, but I'm not
> understanding how to go from the examples in the documentation to
> building my own itool application or even adding functionality to
> ivolume. Any tips/suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

I'm not the best IDL programmer in the world. But I'm far from the worst. I certainly know my way around IDL object programs, and I can use object graphics on those rare occasions when I have a need for them. In short, I'm reasonably confident writing IDL programs.

But iTools completely and utterly mystifies me. I spent three solid weeks trying to write my own iTool. I read the iTool documentation set cover to cover twice. I didn't have the first clue. I didn't come *close* to writing an iTool. Finally, I just said the hell with it. I didn't see why I would want to be using the darn things anyway. The programs I write are almost always as nice as iTools and they can be readily understood by my customers. They do a particular job in a particular situation. They are not be-all-and-end-all tools. I like it like that. My customers like it like that. I don't see much reason to change, to tell you the truth.

I don't know, as I've said before in this newsgroup, who these tools are written for. I spend a lot of time with IDL users. I don't think there is one in a hundred who is going to be able to figure out how to write an iTool from the documentation and examples in the IDL 6.0 release. If you manage it, I'd love to hear about it. I'll give you a prominent place on my web page to explain how you did it.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I know people who *ought* to know something about iTools who are nearly as confused about them as I am. :-)

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