
Subject: Re: iTools split personality (was Re: Subclassing from IDLitTool ??)
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 03 Sep 2004 19:12:56 GMT
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Wayne Landsman writes:

> I recently received an iTools brochure from RSI, which included the
> following quote from a satisfied user.... ;-)
>
> "The iTools system is extremely well thought out. There is no question
> that having an object framework like this will shorten the time it takes
> to develop new Object Graphics tools"
>
> David Fanning, Fanning Software Consulting

There must not have been enough space on the brochure
for the full quote, which read something like this, as
I recall:

"The iTools system is extremely well thought out. There is no question
that having an object framework like this will shorten the time it
takes to develop new Object Graphics tools, assuming you can read
between the lines of the IDL documentation and don't want to develop
anything except the kind of tools RSI has already created for you."

Something like that... :-)

Actually, my problem with iTools is not that it isn't
well thought out. It is **extremely** well thought out.
And it **would** save an enormous amount of time writing
applications. Something like it is certainly necessary
to encourage people to use iTools. My problem with
iTools is that the system is so complex as to make it
virtually unusable by anyone outside of RSI.

Better documentation would help, of course, but I just
don't see scientists writing iTool programs, probably
ever. A huge amount of resources are being devoted to
it, so probably RSI knows something I don't, but I just
don't think this is what the vast majority of their
current customers need or want.

> P.S. My question about iTools is -- why a third graphics system? I
> was just getting used to object graphics when I learned that the IDL
> expert programmer now needs to be proficient in direct graphics, object
> graphics, and iTool graphics.

Oh, well, I've decided to leave that "expert programmer" business

to the drunks in the IEPA. I'm just going to stick to what I can understand. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
