
Subject: Re: Linux Question

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2005 17:18:32 GMT

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> I meant in the sense of a programming language construct.
> There is nothing similar in MatLab, to my knowledge.
> And, frankly, I wouldn't even consider a language these
> days that didn't allow me to start my day writing another
> object. They are just that much fun! :-)

Java objects are fun. IDL "Objects" are.... lets not go there. ;-)

>> Hasn't matlab been object based from the get go? For example, the standard out-of-the-box
>> "plot" in matlab (or , at least, the window that the plot is displayed in) has the
>> functionality that I lay awake at night dreaming about for IDL plots. You can zoom, change
>> the line properties, print, etc. You can probably create legends too (but I'm not sure).
>> This is how a regular old "plot" should work in IDL. I guess iTools are the attempt to do
>> this in IDL.

>
>
> I guess you are right, but why aren't people using
> them, then? When I am in the field I hear, "Oh, I tried
> that, but it seemed too complicated.", or "I couldn't
> figure it out." Maybe the tutorials will help (assuming
> we can get the directions to match the save files).

My problem with iTools was that you can't use them pro grammatically.
Say I create an iplot and add a few annotations and get something that I
really like. I'd like the ability to save off the positional and size
information to a template and use that template over and over as I
iterate through my data. Load the template, set the X data vector, set
the Y data vector, set the title strings, and save the view off to a file.

I guess what I'm describing is using the iTool to handle your object
graphics code for you. It's much easier to define the look of plot if
you're able to do it graphically rather than messing with the code for
all the views, models, plots and other objects. It would simplify the
coding greatly and as such would be less error prone.

Back when iTools were introduced I was told from someone at RSI that you
couldn't do stuff like this. Everything was designed to be used in an
ad hoc way. Even something as simple as pro grammatically switching out
your data vectors only wasn't possible. What's the point of using the
iTool if you can't reuse it?

-Mike
