
Subject: Re: Linux Question

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2005 15:25:06 GMT

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David wrote:

> Jonathan Greenberg writes:

>

>

>> David: you are the expert on IDL, one thing I haven't figured out is what

>> does IDL have that Matlab/Octave doesn't? As a remote sensor, I use IDL

>> because of this interface with ENVI. However, why do non-envi users use IDL

>> (except for sheer inertia of not wanting to learn a new program)?

>

>

> In a word, objects. :-)

I disagree mightily with that, but anyway....

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.

As to the OP question of "why do non-envi users use IDL" ? Well, in my case, it's because the matlab licensing procedure appears (horror of horrors) to be even more labyrinthine than that for IDL (how can that be!?!). Oh, and:

- I have a crapload of IDL code

- Everything in matlab seems to be a string, 4-byte integer, or 8-byte real. What's the go with that?

> P.S. I'm not sure there is much difference between Matlab and
> IDL users. You would be better off asking why some people are
> Methodist and some people are Baptist. It's just a matter of
> preference, I guess. :-)

It's not intrinsic though - a learned response *can* be unlearned (be it computer languages or religions). Once the aforementioned inertia is overcome, of course. (For some reason the the song "We shall not be moved" just popped into my head.... :o)

paulv

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