
Subject: Re: IDL, GDL, copyright, EULAs and such
Posted by Y.T. on Thu, 14 Jul 2005 01:33:02 GMT

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Ken Mankoff wrote:

> On Wed, 13 Jul 2005, Y.T. wrote:
>>> But I think if you look around
>>> <http://www.astro.washington.edu/deutsch/idl/htmlhelp/>
>>>
>>> You'll find that almost all the IDL code has been duplicated by
>>> someone else somewhere else. You are probably allowed to use
>>> that.
>>
>> Maybe someone needs to start collecting these things and compile
>> them into a "free idl-alike .pro library". The value of something
>> like GDL would really increase drastically through this.
>
> Umm... did you follow the above link? Doesn't that constitute a
> "collection"?
>

Not in any useful sense -- it's just a bunch of pointers that are not at all sorted by "public-domain"-vs-"proprietary". I can follow these links and examine every single library that I find and keep only those that explicitly state that I'm allowed to use it without a valid RSI license, but that process would be a lot of work (and would be exactly what I meant with "collect all these").

And in the end, there's a lot of basic functionality that would probably barf because it relies on the presence of other routines that RSI supplied. Which are NOT public-domain.
