Folks,

I've just returned from a couple of months in Germany. Alas,
the trip didn't go *exactly* as I had planned. I didn't have
nearly the time to write that I expected to have, my hard
drive crashed half way through the visit and set me back
over a week, and we didn't really accomplish what we had
in mind to accomplish. That's the bad news.

The good news is that I did a LOT of work on my Catalyst
Library, including solving some of those thorny issues
I was loosing sleep over before I left. In particular,
I was trying very hard to get Regions of Interest to
work the way I wanted them to work on images.

In any case, for those of you who are running IDL 6.1,
I have put a new version of my Catalyst test application
on my web page. You can see the changes for yourself.
Pay particular attention to the Medical Image and the
Annotation tabs.

The Annotation tab has also been improved with a Measuring Tool
and an Angle Tool. The former allows you to measure a distance
in a graphics window. The later allows you to measure an angle
between two points in a graphics window. All the annotation
tools allow interactive editing, moving, deleting, grouping,
etc.

The Annotation tool is exciting to me because I have never
see anything like it in direct graphics. Because I would like
to see if it can actually be used for anything worthwhile, I
have written a small (*very* small) Catalyst application called
AnnotateWindow. The purpose of AnnotateWindow is to allow the
user to annotate any IDL graphics window (or image) with the
annotation tools currently available in the Catalyst Library.
Final output can be made to a variety of file types, including
JPEG, TIFF, and PostScript.

I think the tool is self-explanatory (of course, I will learn
otherwise as soon as someone downloads the darn thing), but
SHIFT-clicking will allow your to select multiple items for
grouping, moving as a unit, etc. RIGHT-clicking will give you
access to pop-up menus that allow you to make other choices, etc.

To run the AnnotateWindow application, you will have to first download the catalyst.sav file and restore it. There is also a small zip file of bitmaps that are used with the annotation tool buttons. While these are not required, the buttons look uninspired without them. You can extract the bitmaps into a folder named cat_resources, and place this folder in the same location as the catalyst.sav file and the annotatewindow.pro file, if you like. Or, you can extract the bitmaps into the normal IDL_DIR/resource/bitmaps directory. They will not interfere with bitmaps that are already there.

If you are interested, here are some links to follow:

To learn more about the Catalyst Library:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/catlib.html

To download the Catalyst save file:

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/catalyst.sav

To download the Catalyst resource files:

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/cat_resources.zip

To download the AnnotateWindow file:

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/annotatewindow.pro

As always, I appreciate the feedback. :-)

Cheers,

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