
Subject: Re: Best platform for IDL 6.2?

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 16 Nov 2005 22:18:57 GMT

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Michael Wallace wrote:

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> And one more thing I'll throw in to your list is that IDL under Windows
> still doesn't have a command line version. That may not be important to
> some of you, but because of integration we have with other languages, it
> is very nice to be able to spawn a quick IDL process when you need it
> whether it's in some automated nightly processing, responding to a
> request for data on a web site, or other task where you're not sitting
> in front of your computer.

Sorry to quibble Michael, but what you're referring to, I think, is IDL's lack of a **console-mode** executable on Windows (and I did mention this lack, in connection with IDLWAVE integration). I have submitted a feature request for such a beast--after threatening to do so many times on this group. I haven't got a response yet and I doubt it is a high priority. If a few more people add their \$0.02, perhaps the priority will rise a little. To see proof that an IDL console-mode executable would be feasible, just look at Python.

IDLDE on Windows can be launched from a command line and it does accept command-line parameters. (Like IDL on other platforms, the command-line capability was enhanced substantially in version 6.2 to support automated operation.) However it is not a console-mode program so it always opens a GUI and it cannot interact with the calling process via stdin and stdout. So you are quite right to say that it doesn't play very well with shell scripts, WWW-page processing and remote logons.

And by the way, people, please don't refer to the Windows console-mode command-line and batch-file processor, cmd.exe as a "DOS prompt". OK, Microsoft have been known refer to it in this way, but it has nothing to do with DOS.

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Mark Hadfield "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoea tahi tatou"

m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz

National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)
