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Subject: Re: Creating Panels in iTools

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 23 Nov 2005 15:48:31 GMT

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Richard G. French writes:

- > Is this the same course in which you developed the pixmap object? Sounds
- > like some course. Tell us more about it. I tried google on
- >
- > "David and the Dancing IDL Masters (to be)"
- >
- > All I got was the usual IDL admonition "Try more general keywords". What did
- > I do wrong? I need this for a homework assignment due yesterday.

You have to come up with something pretty spectacular to get astronomers to give up command line IDL programs with 15-20 positional parameters. (Something about "looking back in time" and keywords only being invented in the past 50 years or something. I didn't really understand the arguments.) So I hit on this idea of "smart" image objects that know how to display themselves, set up their own coordinate systems for data overlay, let you know if you clicked inside them, etc. Surely that would interest an astronomer.

So, next thing you know, these images could make thumbnails of themselves, and clone themselves, and do all manner of neat and useful things, and these programs we were writing just sort of took off on their own. I have to admit they were as sophisticated as any I have ever written in an IDL course. So much so, that I have really given some thought the past couple of days to writing this all down and making a book out of it.

Sometimes IDL just plain surprises you with how easy it can be to do sophisticated things! :-)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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