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Subject: Re: Pass by value and performance  
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Fri, 16 Dec 2005 19:03:01 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Rick Towler writes:

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>> The inability to pass by reference in MATLAB is \*insane\*. An annoyance  
>> when writing everyday code, a real hindrance when array sizes balloon.

>

> My goodness. Does the MatLab newsgroup know this? I would have  
> thought with the size of data ballooning daily that this alone  
> would have MatLab users clamoring to learn IDL.

MATLAB newsgroup? Ha. There are a few very knowledgeable posters (and a pretty good showing from the mathworks.com domain) but the S/N is so poor it is very difficult to learn anything from it. But the IDL newsgroup... A valuable resource. Indispensable. And not a single reference to it on the RSI website. <sigh>

And I should clarify that MATLAB uses a "lazy" copy where it will not make a copy until you change the data. But this really doesn't help me right now. At least MATLAB has a 64bit linux version and a beta 64bit winXP version available. When in doubt, throw more memory at the problem.

As an aside, I think MATLAB definitely has some features over IDL (GUI builder and Java integration), and IDL over MATLAB (keywords and pointers and the VM). Ooooh the VM. You all should thank RSI for that. Mathworks charges a lot of money for the exact same thing.

-Rick

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