## Subject: Re: IDL vs. Matlab?
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 15:31:13 GMT

Steve wrote:
> I've been using Matlab for 10+ yrs, but have recently been asked to
> start coding in IDL as well.  It seems as though the two are quite
> similar.  What are the prime reasons (outside of ENVI compatibility)
> that one would wish to use IDL over Matlab (also, where might it fall
> short)?  Thanks.

I'll assume you're not trolling....

The prime reasons for using one over the other are something that you're going to have to discover for yourself -- unless you provide more information about your needs. Otherwise, many replies mentioning specifics will likely be pretty meaningless. There are plenty of reasons for choosing one or t'other, but a good deal of them may not be important to you depending on what you need to do. Productivity/learning curve issues aside (and, IMO, that's a *big* aside), how do you usually decide the best tool/application for a task? That (implicitly biased) decision process should be relatively language-comparison independent (e.g. from my world: Fortran vs C for science-y type number crunching codes).

paulv

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