
Subject: Re: Introducing FL

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sun, 02 Apr 2006 18:09:34 GMT

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FL <fl@interware.hu> writes:

> Hi guys!
>
> The first public snapshot of Fawltly Language, an IDL compatible compiler
> is available. (IDL is a registered trademark of Research Systems Inc.)
>
> FL binaries can be freely used and downloaded from the homepage
>

So this is not an April Fools joke?

What is the relation to GDL?

I'm a little confused that a person who has contributed to a few threads in the past few years has suddenly come out with an IDL "compiler". I.e. developing a parser, virtual machine, libraries, etc. is not a simple effort. Where did F"oldy Lajos come from? :-)

And finally, with this proliferation of "almost-IDL" clones (FL, IDL, ANA, Yorick), I have to wonder why everybody has to re-invent the wheel (see above). I see the GDL people meticulously toiling over basic functionality, and it makes me wonder: wouldn't it have been better to write an IDL-to-{Python,Ruby,Perl} translator, and get the existing well tested script environment for free? And not only that, but Python for science seem about to really take off. An infusion of well-tested IDL libraries into that community might be enough cross-fertilization to really get a non-proprietary version of an IDL-like language going strong.

Craig
