Subject: Re: Unhappy plotter
Posted by Jo Klein on Fri, 07 Apr 2006 11:07:35 GMT

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Hi David, hi folks,

David Fanning wrote:
> To tell you the truth, though, I think my run with IDL
> is almost over. I'm not interested in iTools and the
> direction IDL is going these days. I haven't renewed
> my maintenance contract, and see no particular reason
> to do so. There hasn't been much new in IDL that
> excites me or the people I work with in quite some time.
Sad as it is, I do share your sentiment. I recently bought maintenance
because I had to move to a different environment, and thus upgraded from
5.3 to 6.2. There is hardly anything new that I missed in the old
version, which is quite a shame when you think what an antiquated
version of IDL I had been using all these years. For me, the basic
operations are what makes life easy - things like extra DIMENSION
keywords and so on, and there are a few of these in 6.2, but not for all
routines where you would expect it (why can I dim max, but not mean?). I
don't need Object Graphics or iTools, and Matlab does indeed do a good
job at certain graphics-related things - such as being able to produce a
decent, resizable correlation plot from a matrix without me having to
set a myriad of keywords.
For me, IDL is just a means to an end - I use it to solve my everyday
imaging problems and write small widget application that others can use
as well, and I'm not happy spending all that money on maintenance when I
don't see any useful additions. Not even the DE is up to modern
standards - NEdit does a better job at highlighting syntax, brackets and
such than the expensive original.
Maybe I shall bite the bullet and defect to the Matlab side of the iron
fence ...
Sorry for the rant,

Jo