
Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Fri, 25 Aug 2006 12:38:32 GMT
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Ol'Gramps,
thanks for the anecdote from the life of an IDL professional. :-)
Although I have been using IDL from the very beginning of it's history,
I cared little back then about the politics behind the product. I
appreciate the insight.

Haje

David Fanning wrote:

> Haje Korth writes:

>

>> Deja vu? Am I missing something here???

>

> Guess you're too young to have heard about this, Haje.

> Here, come sit on my knee, and ol' Gramps will tell

> you a story.

>

> Years and years ago, well before you were born probably,

> I had a mystical experience. I had quit my job--again--and

> had given my wife some cock and bull story about wanting

> to "find myself" or "follow my bliss" or whatever it was

> that was fashionable in those days. Basically, I was more

> or less unhappy with everything I had ever done and was

> looking for something more meaningful to do.

>

> I had this strong urge to call one of my friends at RSI

> and ask if they had ever thought of offering IDL training

> classes to their customers.

>

> "No, hell no. Our customers don't need training classes,"

> my friend said. "But you better get your ass down here tomorrow

> because we are talking to someone about a deal and you might

> be interested in it."

>

> I ran down there in the morning. They were talking to IMSL

> about creating a product called IDL-IMSL. The folks were from

> Houston and didn't know anything at all about IDL. The deal was

> done that morning, and the folks asked me to fly down to Houston

> two days later with a proposal for creating an IDL-IMSL training

> course.

>

> I entered the room with a single sheet of paper and a figure

> on it I had spent the whole flight down to Houston regretting.

> I was asking for about twice as much money as I had ever made
> in my life.
>
> The meeting started, and it wasn't long before it was pretty
> clear that there was--at that time anyway--about one person
> in the world who could do the job they wanted done, and he was
> sitting across from the suits with a shit-eating grin on his
> face. I slid that proposal across the desk to the suits, and
> they didn't even flinch.
>
> The rest, as they say, is history. I'll show you the IDL-IMSL
> video sometime. I still have it around here somewhere. I've been
> waiting all these years just to show to the grandkids :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. (Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou
> speakest truth.")
