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Subject: Re: personal license problem

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 02 Mar 2007 22:19:32 GMT

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Kenneth Bowman writes:

- > I raised another issue that I think is important for the IDL community. They
- > have set up IDL and ENVI forums accessible through their web site
- >
- > <http://www.itvis.com/forum/choosecategory.asp>
- >
- > In my view this leads to the creation of two separate user communities,
- > one that uses this group, and one that uses their forums.
- >
- > I am wondering whether there might be a technical solution to this, or
- > whether we need to think about moving this discussion to their web site,
- > and whether they would feel obligated to moderate (censor) postings
- > in their forum, among other things.

Maybe it's just me, but I find web-browser based forums like this clunky to use. The interface just gets in the way too much. (Maybe I'm just wedded to my newsgroup browser.) It gives me a very limited view of what is available to me, and I spend too much time hitting the BACK button. I already waste too much time hanging around the newsgroup. Wasting more navigating a forum like this doesn't appeal to me.

- > Perhaps we need to keep a free and independent channel, but I don't really want
- > to spend the time going through two different user forums.

I think it very unlikely that you would have a free and independent channel on a vendor site. But I don't think we can even decide. The Internet is too diffuse and non-centrally organized. Groups will form, and information will get out, despite all efforts to control it. In the end, people will congregate where their questions get answered. I know which user forum I would bet on, if I were a betting kind of person. I'd go where the jokes are. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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