Subject: Re: New IDLDE
Posted by Kenneth Bowman on Fri, 09 Mar 2007 14:50:26 GMT
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In article <MPG.205a348c332de2bd989ec2@news.frii.com>,
 David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Kenneth Bowman writes:
>
>> That would seem to fit with general trends, which I would describe
>> as moving IDL toward being more of a product for programmers, and
>> less of a product for scientists.
>
> Thank you. How come I can't be this eloquent!?
>
> Yes, this is *exactly* the trend, and *exactly* my fear.
> Pushed too far in this direction and IDL stops being what
> it is the very best at and becomes an also-ran in the
> programming language sweepstakes. It would be a shame if
> that happened.

I certainly don't object to ITT adding new features and capabilities to
IDL. It can be a great thing for us users. But, it is frustrating that
there is no investment in fixing problems with older pieces of IDL, like
direct graphics. And, many of the new tools seem to only be suitable for
use by "professional" programmers. (Which makes me an unprofessional
programmer, I guess.) I like to think that the next iteration of the
iTools will be much better documented and easier to program.

One of the capabilities of their new web site is the ability to
set up private forums, which they call "group portals". These are for
customers like Siemens and Raytheon, who develop large applications
with IDL. Clearly they need to take care of big customers like
medical imaging systems developers and the remote sensing
establishment, but to me that signals a permanent shift toward
large application development and away from the small- to medium-sized
data analysis project that has always been their forte, to my mind.
In fact, this sounds a lot like PV-WAVE.

Ken