Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 .... any new functions?
Posted by R.G.Stockwell on Thu, 29 Nov 2007 17:11:47 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

"David Fanning" <news@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:MPG.21b8718d13c8aa2c98a107@news.frii.com...

> Well, no. But I do have a (growing!) list of tools, filters,
> etc. that I *would* use if someone where kind enough to
> build them for me.
...
>> This DE thing was way over due, especially on Linux/Mac, where
>> the old DE was completely unworkable.
>
> No argument from me here.
...
> I'm just saying, that unless ITTVIS is talking about
> "growing" a cash crop (I find their web page confusing
> on this issue), I'm not sure my next year of IDL
> programming will look too much different from my last
> year.
..
> Cleaning up noise pollution is a worthy goal. And I applaud
> them for that. But certainly one of the jobs of a software
> company is to fix and improve software. I'd like to see some
> of that, too.

my two cents, I feel exactly the way David does.
 I have not used itools at all.   I have not employed
object graphics - since for my mode of analyzing data
in a reproducible way prohibits random GUI exploration
(other than as a first look) and creating publishable figures
and animations for presentations - there is apparently no
need for object graphics (perhaps my plots are too simple).

I also do not do GUI programming in IDL. I have done
a great deal of GUI programming in Labview (and if one is used
to t-bone steaks, going back to gruel is unpleasant).

There are a number of new functions added that are useful,
so it is something that keeps me in maintainance.

When I read the all-new workspace/projects stuff, where I can
conveniently take my entire path and make it a workspace, I
made a load groan. Like Mark Hadfield mentioned, i think i
will ignore the new projects and workspaces and hope they go away.

And I do find it unbelievable that IDL did not have a DE under *nix
for all these years. Absolutely unbelievable. I very very much look
forward to the arrival of the eclipse environment.

Cheers,
bob

PS having ranted a bit there, I'd still say that IDL is a fantastic
tool for data analysis, and the ease of programming (and especially
debugging/ stepping through code and processing/graphing data that is
in mid-stream) is a major plus. It takes me seconds to bracket a problem
and figure it out in IDL. With my lousy fortran skills and the lack of a
good fortran DE - it takes me days to do the same thing in fortran.