
Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 any new functions?

Posted by proffmw@gmail.com on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 09:30:24 GMT

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On Nov 29, 9:39 am, Kenneth Bowman <k-bow...@tamu.edu> wrote:

> In article <MPG.21b7a6c03145300d98a...@news.frii.com>,

> David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>

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>

>> Note to Ken Bowman: I heard that 24-bit PostScript

>> support is VERY high on the *next* list.

>

> I swoon at the thought!

>

> Ken

So IDL 7.0 is out.

I have to admit that I don't look forward to new versions of IDL anymore.

Version 2 made major strides; versions 3 did so too. Versions 4 and 5 added a few nice procedures/functions. I'm not sure that there's anything new in version 6 that I actually use.

But then again, I suppose I'm a bit of a dinosaur. I started using IDL in 1981

(before versions???, but after SOL, when IDL ran on microVaxes). The only revolutionary things I've found at all useful are structures and pointers.

I've never used object graphics. I've written one widget, and decided it wasn't worth the effort. Widgets aren't any good when you're constantly tinkering with the code - and my code (anything longer than about 10 lines) is never finished. I dislike IDLDE (I use Windows only under protest).

The IDL astronomy users library and the MPFIT routines are extremely useful, but of course they come from users, and not ITT.

I'm a working scientist. I program what I need when I need it. I have lots of procedures that IDL got around to supplying after I'd written them (it's a

pain when IDL decides to usurp one of my old routine names).

The machines I have scattered around the lab run versions 5.6 through 6.3.

Upgrading them means taking a major fraction of a day off to do it (including debugging all the paths). I upgrade when I get a new machine. So why do I keep maintenance? It's cheap (on an academic price plan), and lets me upgrade my workstations and laptops!

From a cold mountaintop, on a cold night,
Cheers,
Fred
