
Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 any new functions?

Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 18:39:57 GMT

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Fred,

I sympathize with your ennui. The key here is that scientific programmers, such as yourself and roughly 3/4 of this list, are not enough of a revenue source to drive development of IDL. Development is driven by application developers, who (I can only assume) pay more for their licenses than we do :)

But as long as IDL doesn't *lose* functionality, I'll (tell my boss to) keep paying the tab. And that's not an idly posed hypothetical, either. Consider the case of ESRI. When ESRI decided application developers were more important than researchers, they:

- obsoleted a working macro language;
- forced all scripting into an object-oriented framework with 100s of lines of overhead for simple tasks;
- walked away from Unix systems entirely (!)

Result: Many things I used to do in Arc, I now do-- in IDL. Which is not always well-suited to the task.

Underneath the mountain, with pick and shovel,

--Edward H.
