
Subject: Re: Self-compiling procedures
Posted by [mmiller3](#) on Wed, 20 Feb 2008 15:58:03 GMT
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>>>> > "David" == David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> writes:

> I guess I've got to get out more, but I find IDL's widget
> tools to be powerful and easy to use. I'm mystified about
> why people won't use them.

I like IDL's widgets - my comment about design choices was tongue-in-cheek, but I meant it. It is possible to spend hours fiddling with colors and fonts and detailed gui layout with some other toolkits, but with IDL, once I realized it couldn't really be done, my productivity went up. Being able to tell people "no, I can't make that some color other than grey" is a huge time saver! Some interfaces end up looking a bit clunky, and are likely less efficient to use that they could be. I suspect that is why so many commercial programs that are written in IDL use proprietary interface libraries.

The other thing that I've used extensively for GUIs is tkinter (and some plain tcl/tk). The big advantage there, that is missing with IDL, is a very large user base with lots of documentation and examples.

Not counting itools, I've still never found anything that is as handy as IDL for both numerical work and interacting with data, and a lot of that is due the availability of the widgets and direct graphics.

Mike

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