Folks,

I attended another of the useful seminar's ITTVIS puts
on periodically in Boulder in morning. These have been
mostly free of marketing hype and full of good information
generally. I think they are a real service to the user
community. Today's topic was extending ENVI with IDL,
taught (thank goodness!) at a basic enough level
even I could understand most of it.

ENVI is a hell of a program. There is no denying that.
But every time I see that image group I think, well,
shoot, I could write that, and maybe I will one of these
days. :-)

Anyway, I learned in the seminar about a version numbering
issue that is sure to cause someone grief sooner or
later. Last week ITTVIS announced formally that IDL
7.0.3 was available for download. Some of you have
probably already downloaded this, as it has been available
for 4-5 weeks, at least.

I noticed today that after downloading and installing the
update that my IDL Workbench reports that I am at version
7.0.3, but if I print, !Version.Release it prints 7.0.1.
As I understand it from a technical person at ITTVIS, there
is a distinction between the *workbench* version and the IDL
version, even though new IDL code was added in IDL 7.0.3, or
whatever the hell it is suppose to be called.

In my line of work (I.e., IDL programming), there is often
considerable need to know exactly which version of IDL you
are working with. Not being able to rely on what I am being
told by system variables is not going to make my life any
easier. In fact, it could be another of those items in my
personal "Reasons to Switch to MatLab" list.

Perhaps someone at ITTVIS can give us the low-down on the
strange logic of this situation.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Did I mention that every time I attend an IDL seminar my opinion of iTools gets worse? (I didn't even realize this was possible!)

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")