
Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job

Posted by [ben.bighair](#) on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 22:12:49 GMT

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On Aug 29, 12:30 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
> full-time job elsewhere.
>
> I will still be doing a bit of IDL programming, but
> my plan is to re-invent myself as a JAVA programmer,
> eventually. :-)
>
> It will be nearly impossible, I am sure, to get out of
> the habit of reading this newsgroup every 10 minutes or
> so, but gradually, over time I plan to learn to do so
> and to leave the answering to the young hotshots who can
> actually understand the questions that are being asked
> these days.
>
> I'll continue to maintain Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming
> for as long as it supports itself. And I might even add an
> article from time to time if I encounter something that
> I know I better write down if I don't want to forget it.
> But this will no longer be the focus of my professional life.
>
> It has been a wonderful 15 years here. It has been my
> joy and privilege to participate with and learn from so
> many knowledgeable people. (I won't name names, because it
> would just never end, but I hope all of you know who you
> are.) I have always believed this was THE best newsgroup
> in the Usenet universe. Your capacity to share your knowledge
> and good humor is unsurpassed. In 15 years, I'll bet I
> can count the number of flames in this newsgroup on one
> hand. And most of those were written by me in one of my
> cranky moods when the dog wasn't easily available to kick.
>
> Thank you for all the wonderful times. You were my joy and
> passion for a long, long time. I will never forget you or
> how much I always looked forward to waking up and checking
> this newsgroup as the first official act of every morning.
>
> Vaya con Dios,
>
> David
>

> P.S. Let's just say Coyote is paying 10 to 1 on any bet that
> says this new job will last longer than two weeks. :-(
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Wow!

Does your wife know about this?

Like all of the other posters, here I want you to know how much I appreciate and admire you and all you have done for me and others. I am quite sure that IDL is a viable language because of your efforts.

Out of curiosity, I checked your profile ala google and discovered that you made 2062 posts over the last 23 months... now let's see...

```
IDL> nposts = 2062 ;posts in the last 23 months
IDL> rate = n/float(23) ; posts per month
IDL> duration = 15 * 12.0 ; months of activity over 15 years
IDL> print, rate * duration ; number of posts over 15 years
    16137.4
IDL> print, rate
    89.6522
```

What the heck? Nearly 90 posts a month over the last 23 months! If you sustained that over 15 years that's about 16000 posts filled with wit, goodwill and wisdom.

Thanks and best wishes!

Ben
