

Folks,

Jumping through more hoops to create both display and PostScript output this morning got me thinking about our old Top 10 list. I was surprised to see we started that in July 2000. Whoa! It seems like only yesterday.

There were 159 posts in that thread, and a lot of good ideas. Just browsing through them now, I found, well, one that was implemented. We now have the COMPLEMENT keyword in the Where function. You could count that as progress, I suppose. (There may have been more, but after a couple of pages I was too depressed to read further.)

I am not unmindful of the fact that IDL is a lot of things to a lot of users, and that one person's nonsense is another person's essential feature, but really...

If ITTVIS could just spare one engineer for six months or so to work on a couple of things that were important to research users of IDL it would make a tremendous difference to a lot of people. I've had two e-mails *this morning* from people confused about the PostScript device, and it is not an unusual morning.

There is too much cynicism showing in this newsgroup lately to risk another Top 10 List. (And, given the success of our last campaign, maybe it would be better from a psychological point of view to start a Bottom 10 List. More chance of it getting implemented, probably. But I digress, and in completely the wrong direction!)

I guess my point is this. There are a lot of people, myself included, who use and are extremely happy with what I have come to think of as IDL's "old" features. Line plots, image display, good ol' direct graphics, sent to a PostScript file for nice output. We could be made happy and a LOT less cynical, I think, if along with the bright new gewgaws someone threw in a lagniappe of a PostScript device that worked the way it was suppose to work in this day and age.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
