
Subject: Re: A Simple IDL Manifesto

Posted by [lbnc](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2008 06:18:12 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 17 Nov, 17:50, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,

>

> On my way to work this morning, after I my German

> lesson geleant, I started thinking about simple

> things ITTVIS could do to improve the IDL experience

> for old and new users of IDL alike. My criteria for

> my list is that it had to be something a junior ITTVIS

> software engineer could accomplish in a lazy afternoon,

> while knocking back a couple of cold Brewskis.

>

> Here is the list:

>

> 1. Make the COLOR keyword default to 1 for the PostScript

> device. The last time I wanted two-color PostScript output

> was in 1964, and if I want it now I can draw in black

> and white colors.

>

> 2. Make the BITS_PER_PIXEL keyword for the PostScript

> device default to 8. Setting it to 4 probably made

> sense in the 18th century (I'm speaking metaphorically

> in computer time, of course), but it makes absolutely no

> sense today.

>

> 3. Get rid of the TRUE keyword on the TV command. If you

> don't know how to tell if an image is a 2D or a true-color

> image, I'm certain Liam can enlighten you.

>

> 4. Add a POSITION keyword to the TV command so you don't

> have to spend an afternoon figuring out who to overlay an

> image with some information.

>

> 5. Oh, the hell with it, ditch the TV command and incorporate

> TVIMAGE or IMGDISP in it's place. (Personally, I would vote for

> IMGDISP.) That way you could have axes and everything else, too.

>

> 6. Make square-bracket array subscripting the default. Craig

> will get used to it, believe me.

>

> 7. Make the NAN keyword default to 1 everywhere. Why not!?

>

> 8. I realize it is difficult to tell when you are staring at

> a piece of paper just ejected from the printer, but make the

> LANDscape PostScript output LANDscape and not SEAscape. You can

> tell, all the time, when you view the PS output in GhostView.
>
> 9. Make UNXI computers default to TRUECOLOR visuals instead of
> DIRECTCOLOR. Oh, wait... this is already done. Hurray! Scratch
> this one from the list.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Can I add:

10) Do *not* throw an error when I want to plot just NaNs. Instead, print a warning and continue, maybe plotting only the axis. And David, don't suggest I should get children to understand that there is "always a hurdle to get over" - tried that, didn't help. Apparently didn't help for you either...

Cheers
Lasse
