
Subject: Re: Musing on IDL's Future Direction

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 15:22:54 GMT

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In article <MPG.2389fae938231b9398a531@news.giganews.com>,
David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

> 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.

Because I missed the ITTVIS presentation about future IDL
improvements at the recent User Group meeting, I had a look
at the online presentation

<http://www.ittvis.com/portals/0/pdfs/idl/uc/idl71idlUG.pdf>

There are only two things listed that are of interest to me:

1. 64-bit version for OS X (already implemented in 7.0.4).
2. iTools enhancements with better programmatic control of
iTools. This is welcome but not a real high priority for me,
as I only use iTools for a few specialized tasks.

Nothing else on the time line is compelling, although I see how
some things could be useful for other users.

Apple is devoting an entire major release (upcoming OS X 10.6) to fixing
and updating underlying software (making things 64-bit, rewriting for
current software standards, improving performance), not adding new features.
OS X is pretty good as is, but any efforts to improve software *quality*,
as opposed to expanding the feature set, are always welcome, IMHO.

Perhaps ITTVIS could spend at least a minor release fixing as many
of those under-the-hood things that drive us crazy as they can.

Ken Bowman
