Subject: Re: Migrate away from idl?
Posted by Kenneth P. Bowman on Thu, 19 Nov 2009 16:19:46 GMT

In article
<cf06c124-16f6-4455-bad3-4b6fc2570274@k17g2000yqh.googlegroups.com>,
 Brian Larsen <balarsen@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hey all,
>
> I have a quick poll for the experts out there. I recently learned
> about (and was wowed) scipy and all the other python stuff that
> basically make it a viable substitute for idl. I am wondering if
> anyone has made the switch (if so why are you still on this usenet?)
> or came away from python or has any advice at all?

If I didn't have 20+ years of hard-won experience and a vast set
of special-purpose IDL libraries I would have a serious look at
Python. ITTVIS should be careful, inertia is not the best reason
for sticking with a programming language. If they would make an
effort to fix the ten most annoying things in IDL (24-bit Postscript)
was on that list, it would go a long way toward making people happy.
They could even consider breaking backwards compatibility (for new
code).

Python and the associated libraries are all open source, so
here is nothing to stop someone from doing the work of
assembling and building it for easy distribution and installation
and then charging $50 or $100 for it, right?

Ken Bowman