
Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 compile_opt changes
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2009 22:33:40 GMT
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Chris Torrence writes:

> I'm writing to you to ask your opinion on some potential changes in
> IDL 8.0. We have made some enhancements to the language to support the
> new graphics functions, and to make IDL simpler to learn, especially
> for new users.

Oh, dear! I would have put this out late Friday
afternoon, the week before Christmas, too. ;-)

I haven't thought through all of the ramifications
of this, but I'm glad you are. Personally, I would
be **extremely** grateful to have `idl2` be the default
compiler option. It will break most of the IDL code
of my immediate supervisors (except, of course, for
those who are better IDL programmers than I am),
but that might actually be a Good Thing. Lord
knows there are a **lot** of reasons to get away
from 1970-style code. Is it possible to outlaw
the rainbow color table while you are at it?

I wouldn't worry too much about the established
libraries. I think they would adapt quickly. (Although
it might help to put a nice T-shirt in the box when
you send the maintainers their 8.0 upgrade.)

I'll give it some more thought while I'm shuffling
back and forth to the refrigerator for more eggnog
this next week.

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.")
