On Dec 16, 6:24 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Jean-Paul Davis writes:
>> I know you've been asked before, but do you think there's even a
>> remote chance that someone (you, Burridge, or even someone else) might
>> ever write a book on how to use Catalyst?
>
> I've been giving this a little more thought while I
> made myself an omelet and cleaned up the kitchen.
>
> Marital bliss, or at least what passes for it at
> my age, is a powerful inducement, but I don't think
> it is the main reason I haven't written another IDL
> book. In 2000, when I finished the 2nd Edition of my
> book, I was still a True Believer in IDL.
>
> I'm not so much anymore, and I become less so with
> each new version of IDL that includes new things
> that I seldom, if ever, use. I happen to be a person
> who LIKES the direct graphics functionality of IDL.
> It's simple, it works, ordinary people can learn to
> write programs, etc. But it is obvious that ITTVIS
> is not in the least bit interested in maintaining
> this functionality.
>
> So, what really holds me back, is not understanding
> who will be around to read (or, more importantly,
> to buy) a new book. Writing is no fun. It's consuming,
> you forget to bathe, you smell all the time. Your
> pajamas wear out. Friends don't want to be around
> you, even when things are going well. And writing
> without having a passion for your subject matter
> is the worst kind of torture.
>
> I find it hard to do that when, in the end, direct
> graphics are still going to suck without decent fonts,
> when you are embarrassed to tell even your friends what
> you have to go through to get a filled contour plot or
> even a histogram, and people who understand map
> projections look at you like you were nuts.
>
> It's overcoming that increasingly high starting
> hurtle that is really holding me back. :-(
>
> Cheers,

>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:http://www.dfanning.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Hi David,
 I am a post-doc researcher doing experimental work. We usually
acquire huge amounts of 3d Data (1 set could be as big as 1GB) and we
are using IDL to treat the data. I spend most of time trouble shooting
our experimental equipment and in my spare time programming in IDL.
I've been using the Catalyst library frequently for the last 6 months,
however most of it is in a quick and dirty way. I will certainly
appreciate a book about it or at least some guidelines.
 In the Catalyst, what holds me back is the lack of time to figure out
the layers concept or how to implement mouse events easily. My plan is
to try to learn data during holidays meanwhile we wait for some repair
parts from Germany and at the same time perform some data analysis.
But I can not make any promises since we are expecting a new baby at
any moment. Everything depends when he decides to come.