
Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by [d.poreh](#) on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 14:27:28 GMT
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On Feb 24, 8:52 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,
>
> An IDL newsgroup first: Live Blogging! from the IDL User's Group
> meeting, 24 Feb 2010, Boulder, CO.
>
> Kirk Bennel, Chief Technology Officer, "the best release we
> have had in the last 10 years, maybe even ever." I think he
> may be right about this. It **is** exciting.
>
> "Expect to see not just marketing people, but people who
> build the product on the road, talking to customers."
>
> "Focusing on Software for Science."
>
> ;*****
>
> Bill Okubo, ID Product Manager.
>
> It wasn't a dream, which is what I thought when I woke up
> this morning. IDL 8 really does have new graphics programs
> that will change everything about how graphics are created
> and used in IDL. Bill says, "Power of object graphics, in
> an easy to use syntax." YES!! Even scientists will be able
> to use these routines. And better yet, half the Coyote
> Library can be retired forever.
>
> Language enhancements:
>
> !NULL arrays, scalars, etc.
> Object garbage collection (reference counted)
> List and Hash variables
> FOREACH operator
> Negative array indices
> ISA function
> Operator overloading (Yikes!)
>
> Graphics
>
> Simple, direct graphics like syntax for producing object
> graphics plots. YEAH!!!!
> Not everything here in this realize, but lots of it is
>
> Workbench

- >
- > Simplified the interface. Have gone back to combined
- > command line/console. Simple, unclutter look, with
- > toolbar functionality (that can be shrunk or hidden).
- > Looks very nice.
- >
- > Help System
- >
- > Revamped again! But maybe this time they have it right,
- > or mostly right. More emphasis on examples (click and run).
- >
- > Other
- >
- > DIMENSION keyword for Mean and Moment
- > New plot symbols.
- > Integrated PDF output. (Not ready yet, but will be there
- > by release (May?))
- >
- > Beau Legeer, Technical Manager for IDL/ENVI
- >
- > Top Ten Features in IDL 8.0
- >
- > 1. Integrated command line/console. Content assist. Colors
- > in console output. Completion tab for finding history
- > commands.
- >
- > 2. Automatic garbage collection.
- > Pointers and objects that fall out of scope are
- > automatically cleaned up.
- >
- > 3. FOREACH control statement. Works with arrays, lists,
- > and hashes (hash still coming).
- >
- > 4. !NULL Null pointers, objects, variables, free memory.
- > Null arrays possible. VERY easy syntax: n = [] of n{}
- >
- > 5. Dot for method calls.
- >
- > obj -> Dolt() becomes obj.doit()
- >
- > (Ed. Note:, this is said to be "bomb-proof", but I
- > haven't had a chance to test this yet.)
- >
- > 6. Dot notation for Get/Set Property methods.
- >
- > obj -> GetProperty, NAME=name & Print, name
- >
- > becomes:

>
> Print, obj.name
> obj.name = 'Coyote'
>
> To use, objects must inherit IDL_Object.
> (Ed. Note. GREAT!!)
>
> 7. !Color 147 color names! Forget about FSC_Color(!
>
> 8. Operator overloading. All IDL operators, including HELP and PRINT.
>
> 9. Lists and Hash tables
>
> List - collection of different data types, access using array syntax
> Hash - like a list, but with string "keys" to access. (Not in current
> build, but will be in 8.0)
>
> 10. New Graphics. Resizeable windows, when change property automatic
> updating, no worries about color decomposition, layout controls
> (better !P.Multi). Buttons on window allow output to standard
> formats, including PostScript, printer, JPEG, PNG, etc.
> (Ed. Note. This is how this should be done!)
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

Wow!! Sounds great. I can't wait.

Cheers

Dave
