
Subject: Re: Good programming practices and commercial development with IDL
Posted by [medd](#) on Fri, 22 Oct 2010 17:48:06 GMT

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> David Fanning writes:

>> I don't find this argument compelling, especially
>> when it comes to high-end software. I think people making
>> these kinds of decisions *weigh* price, but I don't think
>> it is their most important criteria. Support, I would
>> think, is MUCH more important to them.

You are totally right, the price is only part of the equation. And support is critical. I also hope and believe that a future client would choose us even if we are a bit more expensive.

But if I could develop the same commercial software in the same time with Python, I would have 2,000\$ more of benefit per client. Moreover, I would need significantly less money from my pocket to set up the start-up... For some reason, cost matters much more when the money comes from your wallet as compared to when it comes from research grants or from the budget of a large company.

> Just to give a personal example. I don't care how
> much IDL cost me. It does what I want it to do, and
> I like it a lot. It is a great general purpose
> scientific programming language.

I also agree, IDL is a great scientific programming language and I also like it despite its eventual bugs.

My question was rather about developing commercial applications. The requirements there change a lot... I am really uncertain about this decision, and it might significantly change the chances of success for the company.
