

Matteo Romano writes:

> I am excited to see how you lead this group discussion on the IDL
> language. It is very useful for my work with IDL. I would like to be
> able to purchase your book in the printed way, but I also notice that
> you have the chance to make many updates to the programs in the book
> (cg*.pro). Can I ask how the book shall keep in line with the updated
> programs? Is there a chance the book will be out of date when new
> programs are on your website? I hope there is some way to solve this
> problem.

Yes, there is **every** chance of that! Thank you for reminding me. :-)

Here is how it works. When I work up enough courage (and raise enough funds, but that's another story) to commit this book to the printer I will also "freeze" the code I used to produce the book. This goes into a special area of my web page devoted to the book.

So, if you want to read the book and work with the programs in **exactly** the way it is described in the book, the programs are available to do so.

But, as you point out, the programs are likely out of date. That is the reality. Life doesn't stop when you finish a book. You still need to take out the garbage, as my wife so lovingly reminded me this morning. If you want the **latest** programs, they are always available (on what seems to be an hourly schedule lately!) on my web page.

When I develop programs I am always mindful that programs should be backward compatible unless there is an EXTREMELY compelling reason not to be. (The big name change recently seemed a sufficiently compelling reason to me, given my future plans, etc.) So, even the **new**, constantly developing programs should "work" with the book. But they might (I would expect them to) have new features, bug fixes, etc., that are not described in the book. Not much I can do about that. It is the nature of the book business.

But, I can do a LOT about the PDF version of the book. I can fix typos, thank God! So, if you want to be completely up to date, I should think in addition to the

paperback version of the book, you might also want to purchase a PDF version of the book.

I don't have an official "policy" about replacing PDF files, but I am known to be a soft touch when someone contacts me personally and lavishes praise on me. :-)

I'm saying, if you buy something from me, I generally remember who you are and I feel grateful I don't have to work for a living. You will probably get an update from me.

Does that satisfy you?

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
