Dear Newsgroup Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the debut of a new IDL Programming
web page that I hope will be of interest to newsgroup
participants. I have been gratified over the years by what
people are willing to share on this newsgroup. I have learned
a lot from the folks who post here, and I have tried to return
the favor by sharing my knowledge of IDL with them.

But what I have always wanted for this newsgroup is a kind of
"super IDL FAQ". I know from my interactions with people who
post here (and some who only lurk here) that it is hard to
learn IDL on your own. I've wanted a place where more
detailed information about IDL programming can be shared,
a place where people can learn both simple and complex
programming techniques. A place with IDL code, tutorials,
and good advice about how to use IDL more effectively.

I have the opportunity now to try to create such a place, which
I am calling (for reasons that some of you might appreciate)
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming. You can find it here:

  http://www.dfanning.com

To make it worth your while to check it out, I have written
a series of 13 articles and tutorials on everything I know
about creating perfect PostScript output. (Well, *almost*
perfect output!) You can find it in the IDL Programming Tips
section.

You will find other information as well, from IDL tutorials,
to useful IDL programs and links, to a list of recommended
books and CDs that are guaranteed to make you a better IDL
programmer. :-)

This initial offering is very much a work in progress.
My plan is to have the site grow on a regular basis. But to
be useful, I'd like to hear from you about what kind of
information you need. Please send me an e-mail with your
suggestions.

Thanks for taking a look. And thanks very much for your
willingness to share what you know with others in this
newsgroup.

Good IDL Programming!

David

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