Subject: Re: IDL 8.1 still unstable
Posted by David Fanning on Mon, 27 Jun 2011 15:46:07 GMT

alx writes:

> I am running both 32 and 64 bits versions of IDL 8.1 under various,
> fully updated MS-Windows OS.
> I wonder whether I am the only user to face this kind of problem !

I have been using IDL 8.1 pretty much all day long
for over two weeks now, teaching IDL classes every
day, all day. I think it has probably crashed no
more than 2-3 times. Today, for example, it crashed
when I said "Help, a". I don't know why! :-)

In general, it has been reasonably stable. A LOT more
stable than IDL 8.0, that's for sure, although I have
completely abandoned writing main-level programs in
IDL for the moment, because that part of IDL 8.1 is
completely broken.

But I will say this about the IDL Workbench. If you
put 45 people in a room that could maybe hold 20,
all with laptops and none with any IDL experience,
and you try to add, say, the Coyote Library as a
project and get the Coyote directory on the IDL path,
it is AMAZING how many possible ways there are to do
this incorrectly!

It has taken me most of a week to get this sorted out,
let alone teach anyone how to write an IDL program!
This is all made considerably more difficult by having
only three power cords in the entire room, all drawing
about 50 amps over the recommended power rating. God
help us if someone comes in from the rain (it's the
rainy season in Addis Ababa) and bumps one of these
electrical structures. We will all be electrocuted!

Cheers,

David

--
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.")