Subject: Re: Ready to quit after 25 years...
Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 08 Jul 2011 20:07:08 GMT
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Haje Korth writes:

> The issues I am having is that all the information on the new graphics
> system (NG) I absorb from the forum should be available via the IDL
> documentation in absence of third party books. In the past i went to
> David's book where the help was insufficient. I was desperately
> waiting for him to publish a book on the matter, but I gather from the
> forum he does not believe in it presumably due to lack in flexibility.

Mostly I don't "believe" in them because I don't know
anyone who uses them. I can't really say why this is so.
I don't use them because I don't think they behave
intuitively. I always find myself getting annoyed when
I use them. Life is too hard to work with tools that
annoy you! :-)

Personally, I think they haven't been accepted because
no one has a chance in hell of building a tool on their
own. They are unbelievably complex. I can teach someone,
even someone who knows next to nothing about IDL, how
to build a new Coyote Graphics tool in half an hour.
You get the same functionality, it's much faster than
these function graphics tools, and you can understand
how it works. Why would anyone want to use anything else!?

I've thought about writing a book about them from time
to time. But, writing a book is so hard, and takes so
much out of you, that I don't think I could do it and
handle the inevitable frustration with the lack of
documentation, etc. at the same time. I'd be kicking
the dog all day long! Plus, my wife's tolerance for
sulleness is not all that high these days. :-(

Also, I agree with Mike. There is no shelf life for
a book. In another year and a half, we will have another
"new" system to deal with. The last thing I need is
another 1000 books filling up my garage. :-)

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.")