
Subject: Re: Is IDL 8.1 Useable!?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 08 Sep 2011 15:09:56 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

- > Folks,
- >
- > I don't want to put a big damper on all the fun, but
- > I have a serious question. Is anyone actually using
- > IDL 8.1 and function graphics?

Yes.

But only for small, simple things. When I have to plot 2^{18} points to double-check my Fourier-interpolation routines I sure as heck don't use NG - I think it would take a week for the plot to actually appear! (just kidding... mostly :o).

The biggest issue I have with NG is that it is so agonisingly slow. A big selling point for these sorts of products (IDL, matlab, etc) is that they make you more productive because visualising your data is easy and quick. NG kills the latter and, based on posts to this newsgroup, is doing a good job of nobbling the former (although I attribute some of that to resistance to shifting one's perception anchor from how one thinks things **should** work, to how they actually **do** work).

But, when the planets align and the wind blows the incense smoke in just the right counterclockwise spiral, the NG plots that result sure are purty. Look great in documents too.

- > Not only are function graphics commands completely
- > opaque to me when I just try to do the simplest things,
- > but in the past several days I have COMPLETELY bugged
- > my machine four times running function graphics
- > programs! This is a nifty little machine, with
- > a pretty darned expensive graphics card, the very
- > latest Windows 7, JAVA updates, etc. And it has been
- > completely and utterly bugged four times!
- > This is four times more than this machine has been
- > bugged since I got the damn thing.
- >
- > I can't even catch its attention long enough to
- > summon the task manager to kill a process. I have
- > to kill the whole machine by holding the start button
- > in for 5 seconds. It takes about 20 minutes to re-boot
- > and get going again. And as God is my witness, I don't

- > dare run the function graphics program again, for fear
- > I'll be twiddling my thumbs for another half hour!
- >
- > I don't know. This just seems utterly hopeless to me. :-(

I've never had these sorts of issues with IDL 8.0, 8.0.1, or 8.1. I'm a die-hard linux+command-line only bloke though so my experience are probably not indicative of anything in particular.

cheers,

paulv
