
Subject: Re: One Reason Python is not taking over for IDL
Posted by [Russell\[1\]](#) on Wed, 21 Dec 2011 21:09:25 GMT
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Well, when I first got IDL 8, I immediately ran to those marketing materials and tried all the new tricks. It was Christmas morning all over again, and I loved all my new toys. I didn't get too far into the lists, but was thrilled at the possibility of doing a way with things like

```
d = ptrarr(nobj)
for i=0,nobj-1 do d(i)=ptr_new(findgen(i+1))
```

to emulate, what is now called, a list. I tried the new graphics stuff, thought it cool, and recognized their utility (though I'm sure I'll never fully appreciate or realize their full potential); but hold onto my old routines/tricks. Again, I need to swap code with a few people for the time being -- so i'm fighting the temptation of Pandora's Box that is IDL 8. But all this talk is not helping.....

R

On Dec 21, 3:50 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Russell writes:

>> I've recently graduated to IDL >8 (specifically 8.1), and for the most
>> part everything is in good shape. I don't, on the other hand, use
>> many of the new features and largely still do things "the old
>> fashioned way" (e.g. using things like the procedural plotting
>> routines) because I work closely with people who are still using IDL
>> 7.x and we share code. I'm anxious to learn about the new features
>> (and bugs), when my collaborators catch up!

>

> Yes, in my own informal survey, the people who
> "really like" IDL 8 fall into three groups.

>

> 80% "haven't really gotten around to using
> it yet", but they have run the demos and read
> the marketing materials.

>

> 19.5% use it, but "don't really use the new
> features all that much".

>

> 0.5% find lists and hashes to be the cat's meow.
>
> Lord help us when the direct graphics system is
> cut off for good.
>
> Still, it installs pretty good, if you're not running
> in on a Macintosh computer. ;-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
