Subject: Re: anything new?

Posted by David Fanning on Mon, 16 Jul 2012 14:17:03 GMT

Paul van Delst writes:

> Well, Coyote "retired".

Maybe "finally got a life" is a better description. :-)

I've spent the past two weekends cutting fallen trees
off the trails in one of my favorite wilderness areas
near here (170 trees cut on 12 miles of trail in the
past 10 days!). We still have many miles of trail we
haven't been on yet, so "logger" is on my resume now.
I'm getting pretty good with an axe and a two-man saw.

I've also taken a job with Michael Lefsky in the Center
for Ecological Applications of Lidar (CEAL) at Colorado State
University. We are working on algorithm development
and visualization tools for the ICESAT-2 mission,
scheduled to fly in 2016. At the moment, we are working
with MABEL data, which is the airborne simulator data
for a new photon-counting Lidar instrument to be flown
on the mission.

Although our plans are to eventually write visualization
tools in Python, it is sometimes too easy to avail ourselves
of the many advantages IDL offers for fast development.
When we need a data browser, we need a data browser.
Sometimes we don't have the leisure to spend two months
learning how do to this in another language. (And I'm
pretty sure what I wanted to do with panning and zooming,
at the speed I wanted to do it, is not yet available in
Python, anyway.)

Michael Lefsky is a long-time IDL user and is committed
to making the tools we build available to the wider IDL
community, so my name might pop-up on IDL software
from time to time. And, of course, this means I am
committed to maintaining the Coyote Library for a long
time into the foreseeable future, since all the tools
we are building currently are built on top of this fast and
flexible library of routines. The cgGoogleMapWidget
object-widget I introduced last week is an example of
this kind of shared development effort. As is the
MabelBrower itself, which can be found here:

http://sourceforge.net/projects/mabelidl/

So, I'll still be around for awhile longer, although
leaving all the heavy lifting to the younger members
of the newsgroup, who will find that researching
and answering questions on the newsgroup is the fastest
method available for becoming an IDL expert. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")