Subject: Re: Cost of student version of IDL
Posted by Sergey Anfinogentov on Sun, 02 Sep 2012 14:16:21 GMT
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> I am going back into the classroom next fall to teach IDL to undergraduates
>
> after spending the last few years as department head. The course alternates
>
> between IDL and Matlab, and we have talked about adding a Python version section.
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> I am working on ways to get students to spend more time outside of class reading
>
> my book and working IDL examples in order to create more time in class to work
>
> with students individually.
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> To accomplish this, students need to have a copy of IDL on their personal
>
> computers. I looked at the Exelis website yesterday and found that the student
>
> edition of IDL is $89 ($149 with the IMSL library). That didn't seem too bad
>
> until I realized that that price is for a 1-year license! So a sophomore taking
>
> my course would need to pay at least $270 to keep a working IDL license until
>
> graduation. Knowing students as I do, most will simply let their licenses
>
> lapse.
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> For reference, my IDL textbook is $42 on Amazon. When my text was first
>
> released (2006), a non-expiring student IDL license was $49.
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> We make IDL available in our labs, but the inconvenience of coming to the campus
>
> guarantees that students will only use IDL when they *have* to.
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> For comparison, I see that Mathworks charges $99 for a student Matlab license
>
> with no time limit. They require proof of enrollment to move the license to a
>
> new machine after 4 years, and they charge for upgrades.
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> In the current environment (with free alternatives like Python), does the IDL
>
> student pricing make sense to anyone?
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> Has anyone worked out better ways to get students access to IDL?
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>
> Ken Bowman

Have You tried GDL (gnu data language)? This is a free idl language interpreter.