
Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2012 23:33:08 GMT

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Mark Piper writes:

> IDL 8.2.1 is now available for download from our website, www.exelisvis.com. I've listed what's new here:

>

> <http://idldatapoint.com/2012/10/03/idl-8-2-1-released/>

>

> and included a link to download a set of example programs.

You know what seems to be missing here? Quality control. Here are the first two things I tried. Honestly. I don't make this stuff up.

I went to Mark's website and read his blurb about the new ColorTable function. I thought that was neat, so I downloaded and installed IDL 8.2.1. The first thing I read in the ColorTable documentation was this sort of odd description of the Background keyword:

"Set this keyword to a string or three-element array describing the colors of the table. Default value is [0, 0, 0]."

OK, so I used the example right there in the documentation and tried to set a yellow background keyword, since I don't really understand what a background keyword can really be used for in a ColorTable function. Here is what I typed:

```
IDL> ctable = COLORTABLE([[085,026,139],[135,206,255],[0,255,0]], $  
    NCOLORS = levels, /TRANSPPOSE, Background=[255,255,0])
```

Here is the error I got:

```
% COLORTABLE: BACKGROUND must be a RGB triplet or string
```

Sigh...

Ok, so moving on, the next thing in Mark's list that caught my eye was a new "Class Hierarchy view for viewing properties and methods of super- and subclasses." Again, a little oddly phrased, but I just assume the documentation writer is not a native English speaker. I understand what he meant. And, OK, I can definitely use that!

So, I open my cgMap object, which inherits a cgCoord object,

which inherits a cgContainer object, which inherits both an IDL_Object and an IDL_Container object. Perfect test.

I don't know how to describe what I ended up with, but "hierarchtical view" doesn't really do it justice. "God-awful mis-mash" comes closer. Here is a picture of it.

http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/class_hierarchy.png

Do you suppose that is what this is *suppose* to look like!?

I've got other things to do. I'm really restoring a computer that refuses to boot and is resisting all attempts at repair. I'm just looking at this stuff for fun and because I like to be up-to-date on the latest catastrophies. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")
