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Subject: Re: What's New in IDL 8.4

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 31 Oct 2014 23:08:50 GMT

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fawltylanguage@gmail.com writes:

> There must be a number theory mathematician somewhere on the globe who uses IDL and posted a feature request. Python has bignum, too, so it was accepted.

Yeah, with a LOUD voice, apparently. :-)

Some of this stuff seems useful. The WatchFolder thing might be useful (at least I've heard people ask for this kind of thing), and some of the static functions might be handy, although God only knows when I'll need to know the next prime of a BigNumber. It really does seem to me like the kind of thing that might come up once in a lifetime, if then.

The code generator thing must be a marketing department's wet dream. Take all the people who can't for the life of them figure out how to make a plot in IDL (and, unfortunately, there are more and more of these people every day) and get someone to generate lousy code for them that somehow manages to work. Job done! Another successful IDL programmer.

But, really, who is asking for some of this stuff? Got to be the marketing guys so they can tick off a couple of boxes in the Python vs IDL matrix. It seems to me, with limited time and resources, you might want to spend time working on stuff that actually matters to people and how they do their jobs. Nobody is asking me, of course, but I could make a few suggestions if anyone was interested. :-)

Cheers,

David

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

Seppure ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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