> Well I concur. The manuals are smaller (yeah!), but where are the
> ones I use all the time, namely the reference guides? Oh, I have to
> buy them or use the cumbersome online help. Well it is not like I
> paid $1500 for the software - ooops, I did! Hmmmmmmmmmmm.

Same here. And try justifying such a purchase when the
user base at your lab keeps falling!

> So, I have to pay for annual maintainence
> so I can get software upgrades which then allow me to spend all my
> time "fixing" programs that used to work with the old version. Well
> since all the IDL code I write can only be used with IDL then in some
> sense my code is really a part of IDL and, therefore, should come under
> their software maintainence. Maybe I should just zip up all of my
> code and email it to RSI for repair!

Lovely!

> Am I the ONLY one whose code no longer works with Version 5.0?

No, at our lab of 60+ people with only 5-6 die hard IDL users
(most left when their 2.4 code didn't work with the 3.0 release),
we are all pointing to 4.01 until map_set and contour, /cell_fill
are really 100% backward compatible. That sort of compatibility
was advertised, was promised, but was not delivered. Are they working
on it? I think so, we have gotten good response from RSI with regard
the existence of problems, but still no bug fixes that provide
compatibility with our existing code. Is it a difficult task?
Maybe so, but that's why the software is so expensive, right?

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"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us
with
sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use."