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Subject: Re: some users will be harmed by the new licensing policy in IDL 8.6

Posted by [Patrick Broos](#) on Tue, 17 Jan 2017 13:55:15 GMT

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Superchromix, thank you for raising this issue in your institution. I also have invested man-years of labor developing a large IDL application that is distributed to users (both in our department and at dozens of other institutions). The most natural workflow for this application involves multiple IDL sessions---50 or more for some projects. I never dreamed that the fundamental licensing rules, in place for 25 years or more, would be so radically changed.

I will attempt to conduct my own science projects using IDL 8.5.1 until I retire. However, the users of my application at other institutions will often have no control over the version of IDL provided at their institution.

This change in the language, without community input, is fodder for those who advocate "open source" languages (e.g. Python) and criticize commercial languages (e.g. IDL). No doubt, Harris Corp. knows their market far better than I do, but I just don't see how this helps them preserve or expand their customer base.

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