Subject: Re: Good text for beginners?
Posted by davidf on Sun, 18 Feb 2001 14:49:09 GMT

Dan Drew (ddrew@new.rr.com) writes:

> I'm trying to learn IDL 5.2 for Windows and I'm a beginner, and have
> discovered quickly that this is no easy language. I used Mathematica quite
> a bit as well as a little Macsyma. Do any of you have a recommendation for
> a beginning text? I suppose the Fanning book would be the natural choice,
> but I'm not sure.

Worse. I think the Fanning book might be your *only*
choice. :-(

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Good text for beginners?
Posted by R.Bauer on Sun, 18 Feb 2001 21:10:32 GMT

Dan Drew wrote:
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> but I'm not sure. Thanks.
>
> Dan

additional to Davids book you can start with the IDL beginners guide.

http://www.rsinc.com/idl/GetStart.pdf

regards

Reimar

--
Reimar Bauer

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http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/
===
a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Jï¿½lich
 http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.h tml

http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html

Subject: Re: Good text for beginners?
Posted by Kelly Dean on Mon, 19 Feb 2001 16:41:56 GMT
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My suggestions to students that become first time IDL users here at CSU -
review Dave Fanning's IDL Programming Techniques. It's not only helpful for
beginners, but it teaches you how to use IDL correctly. I see many people with
knowledge of FORTRAN or C attempt to program in IDL, only to see them become
frustrated and label IDL as a slow and cumbersome langauge.

Kelly

Dan Drew wrote:

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Subject: Re: Good text for beginners?
Posted by Paul van Delst on Mon, 19 Feb 2001 17:20:34 GMT
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Kelly Dean wrote:
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> knowledge of FORTRAN or C attempt to program in IDL, only to see them become
> frustrated and label IDL as a slow and cumbersome langauge.

Well, it *is* slow. (I say that with raised eyebrows, not fists :o)

paulv

--
Paul van Delst   A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP   Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax:(301)763-8545   And drinking largely sobers us again.
pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov   Alexander Pope.

Subject: Re: Good text for beginners?
Posted by Ben Tupper on Mon, 19 Feb 2001 22:18:11 GMT
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Hello,

In addition to the recommendations for David's book (to which I add my own) , I
think that Ronn Kling's book, 'Application Development with IDL' should be
included. It's target audience is mid-level programmers. I found it helpful
when I got into the down-and-dirty of making object-based widget applications.

Each book represents money well spent.

Ben

P.S. Ronn's book makes use of the Reverse_indices from histogram.   Everytime
JD or Craig post something using the histogram and reverse indices I dig out
Ronn's book.

Dan Drew wrote:

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> Dan

--
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