
Subject: The IDL Book Bidness

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 12 Dec 2002 16:33:16 GMT

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Folks,

Last night I was deep into spline functions and becoming confused when I suddenly thought "Screw it, this seems too much like work!"

The thought suddenly triggered memories of writing my first book, almost exactly five years ago now. I remember finishing and writing the forward at 7PM on Christmas Eve night. No presents purchased. No thought to the season. Just one goal in mind: finish that &!*%\$ book!

In all those years, I have never counted up how many books I sold. I did last night. Are you sitting down?

4365

Wow! I had 1000 covers printed for the First Edition and I remember thinking, "Now *that* was a waste of good money!"

You can make up the numbers yourself, but I can assure you that book has allowed me to spend a lot of time here on the newsgroup swapping lies rather than looking for gainful employment. :-)

In a time when it is appropriate to count your blessings, I just want to say again how much I appreciate everyone in the IDL community who has made it possible to make a living doing something I love. Thanks to all of you.

Best Regards,

David

P.S. Let's just say that when I showed the numbers to my wife I suddenly learned that I would be writing *another* book real soon now. :-)

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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

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Subject: Re: The IDL Book Bidness
Posted by [Pete Riley](#) on Fri, 20 Dec 2002 03:44:41 GMT
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And this isn't counting the countless photocopies!

In article <MPG.18624f9951044f28989a62@news.frii.com>, David Fanning
<david@dfanning.com> wrote:

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> David
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> P.S. Let's just say that when I showed the numbers to my
> wife I suddenly learned that I would be writing *another*
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Subject: Re: The IDL Book Bidness

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 20 Dec 2002 04:03:38 GMT

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Pete Riley (uk2@email.com) writes:

> And this isn't counting the countless photocopies!

Yeah, tell me about it. :-(

But I've also heard of a lot of good people, too,
standing up to say it was the wrong thing to do.
I've always thought that what goes along, comes
along. We'll just have to see.

Cheers,

David

P.S. If anyone is feeling particularly guilty though,
this would be a good time to make amends. Dave BurrIDGE
and I are just finishing a big year-long project and
we have a dynamite object-oriented widget library we
want to put to use building imaging applications.
Think extendable, re-useable code, professionally
written with humor and wisecracks thrown in for free. :-)

--

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