

---

Subject: Re: How does one become an IDL/WAVE consultant?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 06 Dec 2005 16:56:42 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

idlwizard-1@yahoo.com writes:

- > How hard is it to break into IDL / PV-WAVE consulting? How do you find
- > work if you don't have the right contacts or knowledge?

Ha! How hard is it when your IDL web page is so popular it is costing you an arm and a leg to keep it on the air?

Here is a piece of advice: just make sure your significant other doesn't also quit the day job. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. I've always believed that if you are passionate about what you do, and you do good work for a fair price, and you \*care\* about it (I call this "being on the path"), then the work finds you. It's mostly worked out in the past 14 years. But there are days (today, for example) when all you can do is work on that damn book and hope the phone rings. :-(

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

---

---

Subject: Re: How does one become an IDL/WAVE consultant?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 06 Dec 2005 17:06:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

idlwizard-1@yahoo.com writes:

- > I think my ideal job would be part-time and have flexible scheduling,
- > and would allow me to do other work on my own

Here is how it works in real life.

I knocked off a little early yesterday afternoon to go play some tennis with the guys. Got home about 7:30 or so and felt tired. I read a new book for an hour (The Misunderstood Gene), the hit the sack at 9. Consulting is the life!

I woke up at 11PM thinking of my rapidly declining bank account and the outline of the 3rd Edition of my book I've been kicking around in my head. Couldn't sleep. Lay there for 20 minutes before I decided "What the hell" and got up. I spent the entire night working on my outline and writing the first chapter. It's 10 AM. I've had no sleep, I have to walk to the shop in 12 degree (Fahrenheit) weather to get the car that won't run and I'm trying to decide if it is worth shaving and taking a shower or not to do it. Ah, the life of the self-employed!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

---

---

Subject: Re: How does one become an IDL/WAVE consultant?  
Posted by [idlwizard-1@yahoo.com](mailto:idlwizard-1@yahoo.com) on Tue, 06 Dec 2005 22:35:23 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Someone suggested to me that avoiding contact information is not the best idea for a job seeker.

So here goes:

My name is Mitch Grunes. I work as a contractor at the Naval Research Laboratory, in Washington D.C. Since I only work part-time, and do other things, I am a bit hard to reach, but my home phone is 301-441-2085, which I share with a couple other people, work phone is 202-767-8250. My permanent email address is grunes, followed by @, followed by yahoo.com.

---