
Subject: Where is GUI builder in IDL7?

Posted by [jigga1206](#) on Wed, 27 Feb 2008 06:19:31 GMT

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I'm probably going to get slammed for bringing this up, but why did ITTVIS remove the GUI builder? Yes, I have bought David's totally awesome book and can hand-code widget interfaces. However, for small, quick and dirty programs with fancy interfaces... the GUI builder can hardly be beat for speed and ease.

As the only person who knows IDL in a resource limited lab of ~20 people, and with a flood of features being needed, lightweight programs running on the virtual machine are a must. I don't have time to add some widgets to my program and then empirically determine how best they are displayed on UNIX, Mac, and PCs! Many of the GUI builder's original annoyances are gone in the version I currently use (6.3), and after understanding its quirks, it's fairly easy to use.

I'm sure it must be hard to incorporate the GUI builder into the Workbench, but I wonder how much they tried. I lately get the feeling that the novice or non-power user of IDL is getting left more and more in the dust, as IDL seems to be transitioning from an easy to learn programming environment for some light-to-somewhat-heavy data analysis, to a very complex programming language with much overhead in which to be trained, IMHO. In summary, I don't think I'll be upgrading anytime soon.

Take care,
frank
