Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by Brian Larsen on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 17:18:07 GMT

Wow, the end of an era. I guess that leaves the rest of us up a
certain creek with a squishy brown paddle ;)

David, from me thanks for an amazing amount of help on this usenet
group as well as maybe the best programming website (any language) I
have ever used.

Enjoy the change.

Cheers,

Brian

 -- -------------
Brian Larsen
Boston University
Center for Space Physics
http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 17:35:33 GMT

David Fanning wrote:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
> full-time job elsewhere.

I have obviously passed through some sort of time-space nexus and entered an alternate
universe on April 1.

Now how to get back to my regularly scheduled programming, where the ground doesn't drop
away from below one's feet.....?

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by wlandsman on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 17:45:46 GMT

On Aug 29, 12:30 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
> full-time job elsewhere.

Wow.   This sounds for real and not just one of David's dreams to
become a tennis pro, or a college student, or a permanent world
traveler.   The reality is that we never see that 3rd edition.

> are.) I have always believed this was THE best newsgroup
> in the Usenet universe.

The tone of a newsgroup is set by its most frequent posters and David
deserves most of the credit for setting the tone of comp.lang.idl-
pvwave.

David doesn't tell us the reason for the decision but my guess is that
is based mostly on a need for more income, but also in part on the
direction of IDL development, and also partly on a desire to try
something different.   In any case, thanks David for the 15 years of
instruction, wit, and decorum. --Wayne

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by Ryan. on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 17:50:35 GMT
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> I have obviously passed through some sort of time-space nexus and
> entered an alternate universe on April 1.

That was my first thought too! I had to double-check to be sure that it
is actually August and not April.

Thank You David for all your help, on many topics. This group will not
be the same without the occasional humorous ranting about computer
crankiness. =)

Ryan.

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by R.G. Stockwell on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 19:10:01 GMT
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"David Fanning" <news@dfanning.com> wrote in message

news:MPG.2321d1ffc9feed3c98a479@news.giganews.com...
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
> full-time job elsewhere.

Wow, huge news! Best of luck in the new endeavour,
and thanks for all the help you have given over the years.

Cheers,
bob

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by Mort Canty on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 20:03:09 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

David Fanning schrieb:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
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> I will still be doing a bit of IDL programming, but
> my plan is to re-invent myself as a JAVA programmer,
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> so, but gradually, over time I plan to learn to do so
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> article from time to time if I encounter something that
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> But this will no longer be the focus of my professional life.
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> It has been a wonderful 15 years here. It has been my
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> many knowledgeable people. (I won't name names, because it
> would just never end, but I hope all of you know who you
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> in the Usenet universe. Your capacity to share your knowledge

> and good humor is unsurpassed. In 15 years, I'll bet I
> can count the number of flames in this newsgroup on one
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> passion for a long, long time. I will never forget you or
> how much I always looked forward to waking up and checking
> this newsgroup as the first official act of every morning.
>
> Vaya con Dios,
>
> David
>
> P.S. Let's just say Coyote is paying 10 to 1 on any bet that
> says this new job will last longer than two weeks. :-(
>

That's a shame, David. I hope this great newsgroup can hold together
without the glue.

Good luck!

Mort

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by Jean H. on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 20:03:21 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Your contribution was highly appreciated! Thanks for all those useful
posts that saved me LOTS of time!!!

All the best for your projects!

Jean

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by Trae on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 20:08:39 GMT
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AHHHH!!! NOOOOO!!!
I feel my productivity levels dropping already.

How can this be? I bought your book. Do I need to buy more copies?
I'll teach an undergraduate course and make it required reading. "Mr.

Winter, What does this IDL book have to do with astronomy 101?"
"Everything, my dear. Everything."

I'm going to have to figure things out for myself now.

<In my best Blair Witch Project voice.> I am so scared...

Thanks so much for all of the help over the years. I've learned a
ton. Please don't take down the website until I can download it and
replace your name with mine. :)

Best of luck,
-Trae

Ooh! Maybe I'll learn Java now!

On Aug 29, 12:30 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
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> I will still be doing a bit of IDL programming, but
> my plan is to re-invent myself as a JAVA programmer,
> eventually. :-)
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> It will be nearly impossible, I am sure, to get out of
> the habit of reading this newsgroup every 10 minutes or
> so, but gradually, over time I plan to learn to do so
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> how much I always looked forward to waking up and checking
> this newsgroup as the first official act of every morning.
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> Vaya con Dios,
>
> David
>
> P.S. Let's just say Coyote is paying 10 to 1 on any bet that
> says this new job will last longer than two weeks. :-(
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:http://www.dfanning.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by pgrigis on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 20:10:16 GMT
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Well, when I am training people in IDL, I tell them that
IDL programming is a very useful skill and they can
always have a brilliant career in IDL consulting, citing
David as an example. Now what should I tell them?

Cheers,
Paolo

David Fanning wrote:
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>
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> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
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> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
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Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job

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>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:http://www.dfanning.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Thanks for all of the advice and help over the years. Lurking on the
newsgroup and frequenting your website has taught me most of what I
know about IDL. Best of luck in your new pursuits.

Regards,
Josiah

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by ben.bighair on Fri, 29 Aug 2008 22:12:49 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Aug 29, 12:30 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
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> this newsgroup as the first official act of every morning.
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> Vaya con Dios,
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>
> P.S. Let's just say Coyote is paying 10 to 1 on any bet that
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> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:http://www.dfanning.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Wow!

Does your wife know about this?

Like all of the other posters, here I want you to know how much I
appreciate and admire you and all you have done for me and others. I
am quite sure that IDL is a viable language because of your efforts.

Out of curiosity, I checked your profile ala google and discovered
that you made 2062 posts over the last 23 months... now let's see...

IDL> nposts = 2062 ;posts in the last 23 months
IDL> rate = n/float(23) ; posts per month
IDL> duration = 15 * 12.0 ; months of activity over 15 years
IDL> print, rate * duration   ; number of posts over 15 years
      16137.4
IDL> print, rate
      89.6522

What the heck? Nearly 90 posts a month over the last 23 months! If
you sustained that over 15 years that's about 16000 posts filled with
wit, goodwill and wisdom.

Thanks and best wishes!

Ben

Paul van Delst wrote:
> David Fanning wrote:
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>> elsewhere.
>
> I have obviously passed through some sort of time-space nexus and
> entered an alternate universe on April 1.
>
> Now how to get back to my regularly scheduled programming, where the
> ground doesn't drop away from below one's feet.....?

I stayed back later here in the hope that we would get the "ha ha, just kidding!" post.

It doesn't look like it's coming.

Crikey.

Well, David, I'm terribly saddened[*]. Still, if you tackle your future endeavours with
the same verve as you did this one, you're gonna have a ball.

May your serve forever leave its scorch mark at the edge of your opponents service line.

cheers,

paulv

[*] I had a bit of a "what the hell am I doing with my life" moment this morning, so
forgive my being overly soppy at your impending departure.

ARGH! Good luck David! You've definitely helped me out over the years, and I wish you well in your next incarnation as moderator of comp.lang.java :)

--j

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by Rob.Dimeo on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 00:38:03 GMT

On Aug 29, 12:30 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
> full-time job elsewhere.
>

Whoah! Say it ain't so!

Many thanks for your very valuable assistance in IDL programming over the years. You made the classes fun, a programming book both readable and enjoyable(!), a library of routines that is incredibly useful, and ensured that this NG was always full of mirth and merriment ;o)

Best wishes,

Rob Dimeo
"Man is most nearly himself when he achieves the seriousness of a child at play." -Heraclitus

---

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by pook41 on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 00:45:40 GMT

On Aug 30, 1:30 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
> full-time job elsewhere.
>
> I will still be doing a bit of IDL programming, but
> my plan is to re-invent myself as a JAVA programmer,

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> It will be nearly impossible, I am sure, to get out of
> the habit of reading this newsgroup every 10 minutes or
> so, but gradually, over time I plan to learn to do so
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> It has been a wonderful 15 years here. It has been my
> joy and privilege to participate with and learn from so
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> Vaya con Dios,
>
> David
>
> P.S. Let's just say Coyote is paying 10 to 1 on any bet that
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>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:http://www.dfanning.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

David!

After two courses, and endless emails later, you leave me alone to

fend off
the Matlabites?

Thanks be to you from many people at DSTO whom you've helped since the
early '90's.

Andrew

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by jameskuyper on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 02:04:04 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

...
> It will be nearly impossible, I am sure, to get out of
> the habit of reading this newsgroup every 10 minutes or
> so, but gradually, over time I plan to learn to do so
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> article from time to time if I encounter something that
> I know I better write down if I don't want to forget it.
> But this will no longer be the focus of my professional life.

Does IITVS have any plans to take IDL off the market? Without you to
explain to everyone how to use it, how will they convince anybody to buy it?

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 03:05:38 GMT
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David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> writes:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
> full-time job elsewhere.

Wow David, that's a huge change! Good luck on your new job, we'll
miss you around here.

Craig

--
```
 ------------------------------------------------------------ -------------
```
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.   EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
```
 ------------------------------------------------------------ -------------
```

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by jeffnettles4870 on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 05:06:57 GMT

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David,

I'd like you to know that my phd got finished b/c of your help on this
newsgroup (as well as all the rest of the folks on here), and with
your incredible webpage. I hope that when you stop and think back on
your IDL consulting career, you say to yourself "I did a helluva job!"
b/c you most certainly did.

Best of luck to you!

Jeff

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by skymaxwell@gmail.com on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 06:57:41 GMT

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thanks for your help
don't forget us :)

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by vino on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 08:31:26 GMT

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Hello David,
Its been a pleasure getting to know you through this newsgroup and
your webpage. Your humorous and everyday life posts here in the group
had pulled me out of many of the endless tunnels i go into..
Your webpage and book has taught me what i know about IDL...
We are going to miss you..
Best Wishes!!
Vino

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by rkombiyil on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 09:47:22 GMT

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On Aug 29, 9:30 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
> on the job as an IDL consultant. Next week I start a
> full-time job elsewhere.

Just wanted to say thank you for the treasure trove of IDL tips and
tricks, and also for sharing your expertise through the mailing list &
the book, all of which were a big help during my PhD.

From lands afar, here's wishing you all the very best in your future
endeavors.
Raj

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by rkombiyil on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 09:48:24 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Aug 29, 9:30 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
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>
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Raj

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by qqz on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 11:40:17 GMT

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Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by xue1527 on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 12:52:16 GMT
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I greatly appreciate your help.
Good luck!

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by matsu770610 on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 12:56:52 GMT
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After viewing your excellent website about tips and tricks of IDL, i
switched from C++ to IDL without hesitation last year. This switch
helped me do a lot of research and saved much time.
You made me love IDL and I recommended this language to many of my
classmates.
Thank you so much and wish you good luck~~~

Hao

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by d.poreh on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 13:04:59 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Aug 30, 2:52 pm, xue1527 <xue1...@gmail.com> wrote:
> I greatly appreciate your help.
> Good luck!

Good luck.
Thank You

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by Jeremy Bailin on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 15:00:14 GMT
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I think I just felt an earthquake, and it's not because I'm visiting
Pasadena. ;-)

David, good luck with your new career... I'll just echo everyone else
and say that your website and posts to the group have probably saved
me months of programming time and years of CPU cycles. And if you
change your mind, we'll welcome you back with jubilation! :-)=

-Jeremy.

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by MC on Sat, 30 Aug 2008 16:56:37 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Aug 30, 4:30 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
>
> I just wanted to let you know that today is my last day
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> joy and privilege to participate with and learn from so
> many knowledgeable people. (I won't name names, because it
> would just never end, but I hope all of you know who you
> are.) I have always believed this was THE best newsgroup
> in the Usenet universe. Your capacity to share your knowledge
> and good humor is unsurpassed. In 15 years, I'll bet I
> can count the number of flames in this newsgroup on one
> hand. And most of those were written by me in one of my
> cranky moods when the dog wasn't easily available to kick.
>
> Thank you for all the wonderful times. You were my joy and
> passion for a long, long time. I will never forget you or
> how much I always looked forward to waking up and checking
> this newsgroup as the first official act of every morning.
>
> Vaya con Dios,
>
> David
>
> P.S. Let's just say Coyote is paying 10 to 1 on any bet that

> says this new job will last longer than two weeks. :-(
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:http://www.dfanning.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Good luck with the new job and thanks for all the great posts and help
over the years, you've saved me a lot of time with your tips and
tricks. IDL will miss you...

Au revoir

Cheers

Subject: Re: My Last Day on the Job
Posted by raghuram on Wed, 03 Sep 2008 23:15:55 GMT
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On Aug 30, 5:52 am, xue1527 <xue1...@gmail.com> wrote:
> I greatly appreciate your help.
> Good luck!

Thanks a lot for answering and helping out on even some very basic IDL
questions, and IDL starters !

Raghu