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Subject: Catalyst Library Going Open Source  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 14 Oct 2008 13:26:13 GMT  
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Folks,

Later this week Mike Galloy and I will have my Catalyst Library set up as an Open Source software project. I'm still working on documentation issues, but I have the code pretty much ready to go. This morning's discussion of iTools has prompted me to give you an early look at what is possible.

I had occasion last week to be working with ilimage. I find this program, like almost all the iTools, incomprehensible. For God's sake, I just want to look at my image! But the image jumps around in size so I have to scroll around all the time, I can't get the damn thing to fill up the window, etc. I loose patience quickly.

So, I thought I would just build an ilimage-like tool in Catalyst to show new users how it can be done. It took me about five hours, start to finish.

If you are interested in this, you can download the preliminary Catalyst distribution here:

<http://www.dfanning.com/misc/catalyst.zip>

The file is about 1.5 MByte in size, and contains two directories: catalyst and coyote. (You will need this updated Coyote directory.) Add these two directories to your path (please be sure your other Coyote directory doesn't interfere. In fact, get rid of it). Be careful to add the directories to your IDL path in such a way that the sub-directories are searched, too.

Once installed, to see this new ilimage-for-the-rest-of-us miracle of easy programming, type this:

```
IDL> ImgWin, image
```

Where "image" is any 2D array or true-color image. (You will have more functionality in the tool if the image is a 2D array.)

I'd be curious to know if it works. :-)

If this Open Source project takes off like I hope it will,

I think it might be possible to have interactive tools that work the way *\*we\** do, and not the way some marketing type *\*thinks\** we do.

Cheers,

David

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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