Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by R.G.Stockwell on Wed, 24 Feb 2010 17:02:45 GMT

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"David Fanning" <news@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:MPG.25ef0734c09c5b189896b1@news.giganews.com...
> Folks,
>
> An IDL newsgroup first: Live Blogging! from the IDL User's Group
> meeting, 24 Feb 2010, Boulder, CO.

......

wow, sounds great. Thanks for posting this stuff.

Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by rogass on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 07:47:43 GMT

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On 24 Feb., 17:52, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
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> Kirk Bennel, Chief Technology Officer, "the best release we
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>   DIMENSION keyword for Mean and Moment
>   New plot symbols.
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> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
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> Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

Good news. I'm looking forward :)

Maybe Python has to wait....

Cheers

CR

Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by ben.bighair on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 14:10:22 GMT

On Feb 24, 11:52 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
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> meeting, 24 Feb 2010, Boulder, CO.
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Hi David,

Thanks for sharing the exciting details. Sounds like you are having
fun and the the rest of us might have some soon, too!

Cheers,
Ben

Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by d.poreh on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 14:27:28 GMT

On Feb 24, 8:52 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
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Wow!! Sounds great. I can't wait.
Cheers
Dave

Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 14:42:55 GMT

Ben Tupper writes:

> Thanks for sharing the exciting details. Sounds like you are having
> fun and the the rest of us might have some soon, too!

For nearly 25 years, I have been trying to "fix" IDL,
either by writing programs that work the way I think
they should work, or by teaching people how to work
around IDL's shortcomings. I've grown old and cynical.

I really didn't expect to feel much different after
this week's User Group meeting. But I have to say that
what I have seen in the past two days is not only good
news for the casual IDL user, but is *great* news
for IDL developers.

I don't want to set expectations too high. This is
just the first release in a new direction, after all,
and I haven't really had a chance to play with the
code and understand how it all works together.
There are obvious pieces still missing. But this step
is just absolutely in the right direction. For me,
it provides tools that I can see myself using every
single day. That hasn't happened for a LONG time.

I said yesterday that one reason I haven't yet
written that 3rd Edition of my book is that it is
difficult to write while popping Prozac for
depression. If you don't see a future for the
software, why write about it? But this changes

everything. I can see myself writing with Happy
Thoughts once again. That, in itself, is
enormously comforting. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. The other thing cheering me up today is the
fact that I will no longer have to support
half the programs in the Coyote Library! Maybe
I can give Coyote the boot and hire that young
thing with the doe eyes to handle the lighter
load. :-)

--
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Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by KRDean on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 15:20:41 GMT
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On Feb 24, 9:52 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
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Lets us not forget all those great presentation on day two - all very good and inspirational. I'm glade to be an IDL programmer. Especially, David's talk about Map Projections. Maybe in their new Agile programming environment, ITTVIS will give us new up to date (PROJ4) mapping routines by IDL 8.1 release or as a patch.

Kelly Dean
Fort Collins, CO

Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by Matt[2] on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 15:45:53 GMT
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kBob <krdean@gmail.com> writes:

> Lets us not forget all those great presentation on day two - all very
> good and inspirational. I'm glade to be an IDL programmer. Especially,
> David's talk about Map Projections. Maybe in their new Agile
> programming environment, ITTVIS will give us new up to date (PROJ4)
> mapping routines by IDL 8.1 release or as a patch.

That might be a reason to stick with IDL.

Matt

--
Matthew Savoie - Scientific Programmer
National Snow and Ice Data Center
(303) 735-0785   http://nsidc.org

Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by wlandsman on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 16:34:15 GMT
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On Feb 24, 11:52 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Top Ten Features in IDL 8.0
>
Thanks for the detailed and optimistic report.   I know I shouldn't
be greedy but was there any news about planned future enhancements to

IDL widgets?   Thanks, -Wayne

Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 16:46:12 GMT
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David Fanning writes:

> Maybe
> I can give Coyote the boot and hire that young
> thing with the doe eyes to handle the lighter
> load. :-)

I've been informed by Coyote's attorney this morning that
I can take this idea and "put it where the sun don't shine".
Apparently Coyote has an iron-clad contract through at least
2025. Oh, well, we can't have everything, I guess. :-(

Cheers,

David

--
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Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 16:49:05 GMT
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Wayne Landsman writes:

> Thanks for the detailed and optimistic report.   I know I shouldn't
> be greedy but was there any news about planned future enhancements to
> IDL widgets?

No news, but repeated requests from the audience,
especially during Tuesday's open forum. I think
ITTVIS acknowledges the need, but--as always--
has a lot on their plate. In my view, they
can't be doing graphics this nice without seeing

---

clearly that this in how widgets should work, too.

Personally, I think they understand the need. When
they might get it done is anyone's guess. I didn't
hear anyone give anything away, even in private
conversations.

Cheers,

David

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Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by Spon on Thu, 25 Feb 2010 18:52:27 GMT
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On Feb 25, 2:42 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Maybe
> I can give Coyote the boot and hire that young
> thing with the doe eyes to handle the lighter
> load. :-)
>

I say go for it!
Nothing wrong with doe eyes - if they're fresh!

Good news, thanks for keeping us posted!

Regards,
Chris

Subject: Re: Blogging the IDL User's Group Meeting
Posted by rogass on Fri, 26 Feb 2010 07:26:10 GMT
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I hope, that they will also give the opportunity to create real
executable binaries are intend to do this in future releases. Make_rt
is not a real option.

Cheers

CR

On Feb 26, 4:26 am, chris <rog...@googlemail.com> wrote:
> I hope, that they will also give the opportunity to create real
> executable binaries are intend to do this in future releases. Make_rt
> is not a real option.

I would find that very surprising. IDL programs run on virtual
machines, so it would be a major fundamental change to make it a
native compiler. It is the same in other VM languages, as far as I
know, such as Python and Java, for instance. Even though Java uses
strong static types (much easier to compile), and has the JIT compiler
(to make some parts into native binaries), no Java program runs
without the VM.

make_rt produces a more complete solution than can be done in Java,
since it includes the VM, so it can be used directly (though there are
the IDL VM limitations, which exist because IDL is not free). The way
to distribute ready programs in Java, jar files, is more similar to
making IDL save files. Since everybody has the Java VM, distributing
jar files is more practical than distributing IDL save files. But IDL
will never be as ubiquitous as Java, since it is neither free or a
general purpose language.