
Subject: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 08 Oct 2010 15:11:30 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Folks,

I have been talking to book cover designers this week about designs for a book series I am in the process of writing. We would like to incorporate a number of IDL visualizations in the design. I have some, of course, but this group is such an integral part of everything I do, I thought you might want to participate and have a chance at becoming famous.

So, if you are interested, I am looking for colorful examples of IDL graphical output, preferably in PostScript format, but fairly high resolution images are acceptable, too. (Please, nothing displayed with the rainbow color table!!)

I can't pay you. I may be able to buy you a drink if I sell any books. :-)

But you have a chance to become famous and have your design on a book that is sure to compete with old Kurt Vonnegut re-prints on Amazon's Best Seller list.

Drop me a line if you are interested. No promises, but if it looks great, you have a shot. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 19 Oct 2010 12:38:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Folks,

This is the last call to make yourself famous. Images are heading to the book designer by the end of the week. Make sure your best IDL work is among them!

I've received some VERY nice images. Thank you to all who have participated so far. I am *particularly* in need of line, contour, and image plots. Whatever you think is your best IDL work.

Send 'em in! :-)

Cheers,

David

> I have been talking to book cover designers this week
> about designs for a book series I am in the process of writing.
> We would like to incorporate a number of IDL visualizations
> in the design. I have some, of course, but this group
> is such an integral part of everything I do, I thought
> you might want to participate and have a chance at
> becoming famous.
>
> So, if you are interested, I am looking for colorful
> examples of IDL graphical output, preferably in
> PostScript format, but fairly high resolution images
> are acceptable, too. (Please, nothing displayed with
> the rainbow color table!!)
>
> I can't pay you. I may be able to buy you a drink
> if I sell any books. :-)
>
> But you have a chance to become famous and have your
> design on a book that is sure to compete with old
> Kurt Vonnegut re-prints on Amazon's Best Seller
> list.
>
> Drop me a line if you are interested. No promises,
> but if it looks great, you have a shot. :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

--

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: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Wed, 20 Oct 2010 19:56:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <MPG.27273f331f1c132d9897c5@news.giganews.com>,
David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,
>
> This is the last call to make yourself famous. Images
> are heading to the book designer by the end of the week.
> Make sure your best IDL work is among them!

So, are you going to produce a paper edition? I seem to
recall you advocating going all-electronic. ;-)

My student Cameron Homeyer is going to send you a multi-panel
plot where we have a video image from the wing-mounted camera of a
research aircraft combined with data plots showing the
aircraft location superimposed on a radar map and various
parameters measured by the aircraft.

It is one frame from an animation sequence. It is very cool,
even if we say so ourselves. You can see multiple things
changes simultaneously as the plane flies through the tops
of some cumulus clouds (and the camera gets coated with ice).

Cheers, Ken

Subject: Re: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 20 Oct 2010 20:24:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

> So, are you going to produce a paper edition? I seem to
> recall you advocating going all-electronic. ;-)

To tell you the truth, I'm scared to death of electronic
books. I'm suffering here with no income and debts piling
up. The only thing I have going for me is a long-suffering,

loving wife. I would like to be compensated for the effort I put into this. :-)

But, to answer your question, I plan both a paper and electronic edition. There must still be a couple of people like me in the world, happy enough to abandon the computer for a good book in the evening. Nothing like holding a good book in the hands to comfort a starving man!

The book I plan to print will be 6x9 inches, a standard size technical book (think Learning Python or something like that) on good paper, all pages in color, with a soft-cover perfect binding. It is meant to last at least 10 years, or until ITTVIS gets the new graphics system worked out, more or less.

The perfect binding will allow me to get the book more easily into bookstores, especially foreign bookstores. And it will be cheaper and easier to ship.

I'm churning out 10 pages a day, which doesn't sound like much unless you have tried to do it yourself. It takes me, roughly, an hour a page to write a book, which doesn't really count all the time I have to spend on things related to the book. That's just the writing, and some small amount of editing. Meeting with designers, getting image art together, indexing, and all the rest of it is on top of this. I do that in the evening these days, instead of reading. :-)

Anyway, I'm about to finish another chapter today, so I figure I'm almost half-way there with this book. I'm weary, but still enthusiastic. And I'm still taking showers occasionally, which is **always** a good sign.

- > My student Cameron Homeyer is going to send you a multi-panel
- > plot where we have a video image from the wing-mounted camera of a
- > research aircraft combined with data plots showing the
- > aircraft location superimposed on a radar map and various
- > parameters measured by the aircraft.
- >
- > It is one frame from an animation sequence. It is very cool,
- > even if we say so ourselves. You can see multiple things
- > changes simultaneously as the plane flies through the tops
- > of some cumulus clouds (and the camera gets coated with ice).

Woohoo! Exactly what I'm looking for! Thanks!

Cheers,

David

--

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: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 20 Oct 2010 21:06:30 GMT

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

David Fanning writes:

> I'm churning out 10 pages a day, which doesn't sound like
> much unless you have tried to do it yourself. It takes me,
> roughly, an hour a page to write a book, which doesn't
> really count all the time I have to spend on things related
> to the book. That's just the writing, and some small amount
> of editing.

Dios Mio!

After that little screed, I decided to take a shower
(overdue) and do a little back of the envelope calculating.
Of course, I didn't have an envelope in the shower, but
if my in-my-head calculations are correct, to pay my bills
and get my youngest out of debt to the University so he can
graduate, I'm going to have to sell something in the
neighborhood of 25K books in the first year!

Maybe it's not that many. I don't know. I don't
want to think about it. If I did this for the
money, I would be certifiably insane. There
must be some other reason. :-(

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say passion trumps economic theory
every day of the week, INCLUDING Sunday!

--

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: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 20 Oct 2010 21:27:03 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

- > My student Cameron Homeyer is going to send you a multi-panel
- > plot where we have a video image from the wing-mounted camera of a
- > research aircraft combined with data plots showing the
- > aircraft location superimposed on a radar map and various
- > parameters measured by the aircraft.

These just came in, Ken. VERY nice! Thank you.

These have a real shot! :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Wed, 20 Oct 2010 21:49:15 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <MPG.272907c1aabd76c89897cd@news.giganews.com>,
David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > After that little screed, I decided to take a shower
- > (overdue) and do a little back of the envelope calculating.
- > Of course, I didn't have an envelope in the shower, but
- > if my in-my-head calculations are correct, to pay my bills
- > and get my youngest out of debt to the University so he can
- > graduate, I'm going to have to sell something in the
- > neighborhood of 25K books in the first year!

As fellow IDL author Liam Gumley once said (I think this is from him), "It isn't going to pay for my yacht."

I just got a new iPad, and being as vain as most authors I went to Amazon and bought the Kindle version of my book. (Now I can carry it around with me, I rationalized.)

I am impressed by how well the electronic version works, although the color disappeared (even the color plates are grayscale).

I am not impressed with the Kindle hardware itself, but now that you can get Kindle readers for iphone, ipad, mac, etc., I can see the possibility of an electronic-only version. And the Kindle copy protection should eliminate casual theft, at least.

Ken

Subject: Re: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 21 Oct 2010 01:19:14 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

> I just got a new iPad, and being as vain as most authors
> I went to Amazon and bought the Kindle version of my book.
> (Now I can carry it around with me, I rationalized.)
>
> I am impressed by how well the electronic version works, although
> the color disappeared (even the color plates are grayscale).

Yes, when I spoke to a book designer last week she told me my book would be "perfect" for the e-book format, except that the Chapter Titles would disappear, all the color formatting would be gone, etc, etc. It sounded dismal.

I presume Adobe is working on a protection scheme for PDF files, which everyone wants to use, but who knows when that will be ready. In the meantime, I guess we live with our fingers permanently crossed.

Cheers,

David

P.S. By the way, I've gotten some REALLY nice graphics

today. Thank you. Some of them have given me new ideas for the book! :-)

--

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: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 21 Oct 2010 12:36:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning writes:

- > But you have a chance to become famous and have your
- > design on a book that is sure to compete with old
- > Kurt Vonnegut re-prints on Amazon's Best Seller
- > list.
- >
- > Drop me a line if you are interested. No promises,
- > but if it looks great, you have a shot. :-)

I have been **totally** impressed with some of the graphics that have come in with this appeal. I got one the other day that was totally different from anything I've ever created in IDL. It may appear not just on the cover, but in the book itself! :-)

This weekend is the absolute deadline on this. I'm taking everything I have over to the cover designer on Monday. If you have something you think is neat, let me know.

I'm thinking I might need to add an "IDL Gallery" page to my web page, where we can display some of this artwork to the rest of the world. It really is that good, and like any good art, it generates a TON of ideas for what you can do with your own data.

Cheers,

David

--

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: Chance to Become Famous in IDL Circles!

Posted by [jkeller](#) on Fri, 22 Oct 2010 08:37:39 GMT

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

> I'm thinking I might need to add an "IDL Gallery" page
> to my web page, where we can display some of this artwork
> to the rest of the world. It really is that good, and like
> any good art, it generates a TON of ideas for what you can
> do with your own data.
>

I would appreciate this very much as I would love to see what is doable and to get some new ideas as well ;)

Sincerely,
Jan
