
Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 17:03:30 GMT

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burton449 writes:

> I would like to know if it exists one or some books to learn IDL in
> pdf that we can download free like we can find for many other
> programming language...

It's hard to read this with the debt collector knocking
at the door and the wife nearing the end of her patience. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners

Posted by [penteado](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 17:14:26 GMT

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On Jan 25, 3:03 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> burton449 writes:

>> I would like to know if it exists one or some books to learn IDL in
>> pdf that we can download free like we can find for many other
>> programming language...

>

> It's hard to read this with the debt collector knocking
> at the door and the wife nearing the end of her patience. :-(

Even for the mainstream languages, I rarely (almost never) find free
books that are good enough. There are plenty of tutorials and
introductions, but usually no good books for free.

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 17:23:17 GMT

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On Jan 25, 11:45 am, burton449 <burton...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Good day!
>
> I would like to know if it exists one or some books to learn IDL in
> pdf that we can download free like we can find for many other
> programming language...
>
> In preference, I would like recent books... not too old.
>
> Have any references to share?
>
> Thank You
>
> Max Demars

Well if you can't afford to buy one yourself, sometimes it turns out that your school/employer/institution can easily be convinced to buy a book instead. Give it a try.

Ciao,
Paolo

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 18:34:31 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> burton449 writes:
>
>> I would like to know if it exists one or some books to learn IDL in
>> pdf that we can download free like we can find for many other
>> programming language...
>
> It's hard to read this with the debt collector knocking
> at the door and the wife nearing the end of her patience. :-(

Is your new book available for pre-order? Tell your wife I'm quite willing to plonk down the \$\$ now and wait for it's publication. :o)

FWIW, there are a couple of technical bookstores I subscribe to[*] that do this sort of thing as part of their regular business. I.e. they release "beta" or "early access" electronic copies and then you re-download as new versions arrive (e.g. final "printing", or typo-corrections, etc).

Are you going to release an electronic version?

cheers,

paulv

[*] <http://www.manning.com> See "MEAP"

<http://pragprog.com> See <http://pragprog.com/categories/new> for examples of their "beta" books.

etc...

BTW, both of the above sites are always asking for authors..., e.g.
<http://pragprog.com/write-for-us>

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 18:58:28 GMT

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Paul van Delst writes:

> Is your new book available for pre-order? Tell your wife I'm quite willing to plunk down the \$\$
> now and wait for it's
> publication. :o)

What!? I assumed you were an IDL-8-ophile. :-)

> FWIW, there are a couple of technical bookstores I subscribe to[*] that do this sort of thing as
> part of their regular
> business. I.e. they release "beta" or "early access" electronic copies and then you re-download
> as new versions arrive
> (e.g. final "printing", or typo-corrections, etc).
>
> Are you going to release an electronic version?

As I have been telling my credit card company (to deaf ears!) I am *very* close to having a book available for pre-order. I am doing what I hope is the penultimate read through the entire book now, searching for those ever illusive typos and trying to make the style and tone consistent throughout.

When I am finished, I am going to turn off the phone, disconnect from the Internet, and take 3-4 days to write an index. If this is not done all at once, in a concerted effort, the index is a dog's dish. :-(

If the cover art is finished by then (I expect it to be), I will produce a number of books, from different

printers, to judge printer quality. I'll sell these as pre-orders. I'm also going to make the book available to a few select people who's opinion I value and/or who's proofreading skills are extraordinary. (My wife falls into the latter category.) The book will be available in several electronic formats (if I can figure out how to avoid getting the hundreds of figures completely mashed). I've put it on my Kindle, and it looks great!

Then, I'll make the final round of corrections, read the whole mess one more time, fixing bad page breaks as I go, and toss the damn thing out onto the street, hoping I NEVER have to read it again!

You know a book is "finished" when you really can't stand to look at it any more. :-)

Anyway, I'm sure this newsgroup will be the first to know about any developments. It will not, however, be available for free. :-)

I don't know how much the book will cost yet, because I am just in the process of talking to printers. It will be produced entirely in color and printed digitally. I was talking to my son, who just got an MBA degree, about pricing the book. I told him I had about \$50K of my time into it, and... He stopped me cold. "Dad, how much it cost you to produce has NOTHING to do with how you price the book. You price it according to what you can sell it for." I just looked at him in dismay. I'm afraid I am going to be making about five cents on the dollar. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners

Posted by [burton449](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 20:14:26 GMT

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On Jan 25, 11:45 am, burton449 <burton...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Good day!

>
> I would like to know if it exists one or some books to learn IDL in
> pdf that we can download free like we can find for many other
> programming language...
>
> In preference, I would like recent books... not too old.
>
> Have any references to share?
>
> Thank You
>
> Max Demars

Take a look at this webpage if you want to get help for learning IDL programming and command syntax?

http://physics.nyu.edu/grierlab/idl_html_help/home.html

And this website for list of commands:

http://physics.nyu.edu/grierlab/idl_html_help/idl_alph.html

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 20:16:36 GMT
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Am 25.01.2011 17:45, schrieb burton449:

> Good day!
>
> I would like to know if it exists one or some books to learn IDL in
> pdf that we can download free like we can find for many other
> programming language...

I guess the many other languages are free too ;)

cheers
Reimar

>
> In preference, I would like recent books... not too old.
>
> Have any references to share?
>
> Thank You
>
> Max Demars

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 20:17:08 GMT
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burton449 writes:

- > Take a look at this webpage if you want to get help for learning IDL
- > programming and command syntax?
- >
- > http://physics.nyu.edu/grierlab/idl_html_help/home.html
- >
- > And this website for list of commands:
- >
- > http://physics.nyu.edu/grierlab/idl_html_help/idl_alph.html

Humm. Might be better to look in the /docs directory
of your own IDL distribution. Those files will be
a little more up-to-date than these. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 21:40:12 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

- > Paul van Delst writes:
- >
- >> Is your new book available for pre-order? Tell your wife I'm quite willing to plonk down the \$\$
now and wait for it's
- >> publication. :o)
- >
- > What!? I assumed you were an IDL-8-ophile. :-)

I like the new Function Graphics in IDL v8 and all the other (long overdue IMO) new stuff like
lists, hashes,
overloading, etc.

But I am in the business of ideas (at least, I like to *think* I am :o). Not being an overly creative sort I rely on scraping them from the brains of other folks ... particularly the ones who take risks.

How's that for a pre-order pick-me-up? Won't pay the bills, of course, but still.... :o\

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 25 Jan 2011 21:44:46 GMT

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

Paul van Delst writes:

> But I am in the business of ideas (at least, I like to *think* I am :o). Not being an overly creative sort I rely on
> scraping them from the brains of other folks ... particularly the ones who take risks.
>
> How's that for a pre-order pick-me-up? Won't pay the bills, of course, but still.... :o\

I have the first book reserved for you, hot off the presses. :-)

Thanks!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: IDL books for beginners

Posted by [Peter Clinch](#) on Thu, 27 Jan 2011 09:53:03 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> If the cover art is finished by then (I expect it to

> be)

Just use that neat IDL "TV" command... how could there be any problems? ;-)

Pete.

--

Peter Clinch Medical Physics IT Officer
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Fax 44 1382 640177 Dundee DD1 9SY Scotland UK
net p.j.clinch@dundee.ac.uk <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/~pjclinch/>
