
Subject: Time to Fish or Cut Bait

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 Feb 2011 19:55:43 GMT

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Folks,

OK, after writing for three days about how this new Coyote Graphics System works, I find myself on the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand, this whole resizable graphics thing is so nice, I'm probably never going to use anything else. And there is likely to be one or two others, whose sysadmin people are so mean they will never upgrade to IDL 8, who will join me.

On the other hand, it is getting to be a real pain to type "FSC_This" and "FSC_That". Very awkward.

I am **seriously** considering changing all "FSC_" prefixes, on **all** my Coyote Graphics routines to "cg" with no underscore. In other words:

FSC_Contour -> cgContour
FSC_Colorbar -> cgColorbar

I have to make a decision, because in about two days it will be WAY too late for any of this.

I have thought about this, too. Leave them named the way they are, but provide a package of synonyms, maybe just a single program that you call once in your startup file and now you can call these programs using shorter names. This would give everyone the ability to use whatever synonym their fingers were happy to type. I haven't explored all the ramifications of this, because some of these routines have output keywords and I have to be sure I can get these into and out of programs properly.

One problem I see with this solution is that I've just commandeered two different name spaces.

Does anyone have any thoughts or ideas about this?

Maybe it's a moot point because I'm the only one who is going to use the darn things, so I can call them whatever I want to. But when I find myself writing programs like this, which I just wrote about 10 minutes ago, I figure there is a problem somewhere. :-(

PRO wsho, wid
FSC_WSet, wid
END

Thanks for your ideas.

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 Feb 2011 21:14:46 GMT
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Paul van Delst writes:

- > This renaming I also think would be good.
- > Mostly because amongst all the "FSC_" (or "cg")
- > examples you've posted, "TVImage" stood out.

OK, here is what I think I am going to do. If you don't like this let me know ASAP. And I mean, ASAP. :-)

There are three routines that are in every piece of code I've written in the past 15 years:

TVImage
FSC_Colorbar (whose name was changed from Colorbar)
FSC_Color

What I am going to do is write wrappers for those three routines, but leave the routines in the Library. I *will* take advantage of the cgImage wrapper to re-think my original interpolation decision, but I can still do all my on-going development work on TVImage.

cgColorbar and cgColor will just be straightforward wrappers.

All the other *graphics* routines that I wrote for the book, I am going to rename with a "cg" preface instead of a "FSC_" preface. I haven't written that many programs using these routines, so I presume no one else has either. (Wayne, I'll wait to hear from you before I pull the trigger on this entirely!) By my count that is 19 files whose names will change, but all written specifically for the book, and all mostly since November.

Sheesh! I wish we ALL knew at the beginning of the journey what we only know too well at the end! :-)

Still better to do this today, rather than regret it forever next week.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait

Posted by [SonickKenking](#) on Tue, 01 Feb 2011 22:16:10 GMT

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Hi David,

I have been using the FSC_XXX routines quite extensively in almost all my plotting related programs. Especially, contour, plot, plots, color, colorbar, erase, text, window, ps_XXX. I am sure that I have also used other fsc_ procedures. But these are from the top of my head.

So, in short, I'd be happy if these routines can be kept and I can then be lazy without changing any of my existing code. The synonymous wrapper sounds a good idea to me. The users can just set whatever they'd like. At one point, I even thought you could have a GUI program to help users for the synonym setup.

Anyway I only speak for myself. You can and should do whatever seems sensible to you. After all, I guess I can fix my programs with some search and replace.

Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Tue, 01 Feb 2011 23:16:18 GMT
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On Tuesday, February 1, 2011 4:14:46 PM UTC-5, David Fanning wrote:

> (Wayne, I'll wait to hear from you before I pull the trigger
> on this entirely!) By my count that is 19 files whose names
> will change, but all written specifically for the book,
> and all mostly since November.

I have updated versions of the plotting routines in the Astron library (e.g. MULTILOT, PLOTERROR, PARTVELVEC, LEGEND, TVCIRCLE, LINEID_PLOT, IMCONTOUR) which now call the Coyote graphics routines. But I haven't made these routines public, and it is easy enough to do a global replace, so the change is fine with me. --Wayne

Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 Feb 2011 23:16:57 GMT
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SonicKenking writes:

> So, in short, I'd be happy if these routines can be kept and I can
> then be lazy without changing any of my existing code. The synonymous
> wrapper sounds a good idea to me.

Yeah, I know, I hear you. But, I've lived with regret.
I don't care much for it. :-(

I think I have to do this. If I can't teach *my* fingers
to type the darn commands, I can't expect to gather too
many converts to the one True Path. Got to make it easy
for them. Picnics on Sundays, that sort of thing. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 02:26:27 GMT

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In article <MPG.27b21326dceb4d9298998f@news.giganews.com>,
David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

> I am *seriously* considering changing all "FSC_"
> prefixes, on *all* my Coyote Graphics routines
> to "cg" with no underscore. In other words:

I don't know if this is what you are asking, but I think
the owner tag should go at the *end* of the name.

I just find it very hard to look at a list of names that
all start with FSC_ and find the one I want. They all look
the same to me.

On the other hand, if the names are

Contour_FSC

Plot_FSC

...

I find it to be much easier to scan. It's a perception/cognition
thing. :-)

Cheers, Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 03:02:41 GMT

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Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

> I don't know if this is what you are asking, but I think
> the owner tag should go at the *end* of the name.
>
> I just find it very hard to look at a list of names that
> all start with FSC_ and find the one I want. They all look
> the same to me.
>
> On the other hand, if the names are
>
> Contour_FSC
> Plot_FSC
> ...

>
> I find it to be much easier to scan. It's a perception/cognition
> thing. :-)

Humm. Probably a good idea. Comes at a good time too, just after five hours of concentrated work changing all the references in by book and Library, and just as I was reaching for the Commit button. :-(

I think I'm going to leave it. I appreciate the idea, but I think if your fingers are going to have to learn a new pattern anyway, it's best to put the new pattern at the **start** of the routines, rather than at the end. Makes it a little more regular, it seems to me. And as I stare at the list, I sort of like that they are all grouped together in my project window. I know right where to find them.

Pros and cons, I guess. But I don't feel like another five hours of **that** kind of work. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait
Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Thu, 03 Feb 2011 03:29:51 GMT
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I can see the argument, but I think the dominant convention is that the namespace comes at the beginning (how many people regularly use mg_... routines? and I certainly have lots of jb... calls in my code, whether or not anyone else does!). So I think convention comes first in this case.

As for FSC_ vs. cg, I don't think cg is really much better, but I also don't really mind the change. What did FSC stand for anyways?

-Jeremy.

Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait
Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 03 Feb 2011 04:21:51 GMT
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On Feb 3, 1:29 am, Jeremy Bailin <astroco...@gmail.com> wrote:
> I can see the argument, but I think the dominant convention is that the namespace comes at the beginning (how many people regularly use mg_... routines? and I certainly have lots of jb... calls in my code, whether or not anyone else does!). So I think convention comes first in this case.
>
> As for FSC_ vs. cg, I don't think cg is really much better, but I also don't really mind the change. What did FSC stand for anyways?

I use a prefix (pp_) for code I create. I only use a suffix (_pp) in the very specific case of wrappers or edits I did to code written by others (as in histogram_pp), so that it is clear that it is only a small modification to something I did not write. Also, it keeps the modification next to the original code alphabetically.

Besides being the common practice, and keeping a library's files together alphabetically, prefixes make more obvious a name hierarchy: first comes the root level (the developer or library name), which may contain subgroups (the category of routine), which contain individual routines.

I have not yet put my code into categories (which in hindsight I find would have been good in some projects), so there is only the prefix and the routine name (as in pp_isnumber). ITTVIS uses categories after their prefix (as in IDLffShape and IDLanROI).

Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 03 Feb 2011 06:00:22 GMT
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Jeremy Bailin writes:

> What did FSC stand for anyways?

Exactly! :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait
Posted by [Fabzou](#) on Thu, 03 Feb 2011 09:42:10 GMT
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Hi,

On 02/02/2011 12:16 AM, wlandsman wrote:

> I have updated versions of the plotting routines in the Astron library (e.g. MULTIPLOT, PLOTERROR, PARTVELVEC, LEGEND, TVCIRCLE, LINEID_PLOT, IMCONTOUR) which now call the Coyote graphics routines. But I haven't made these routines public, and it is easy enough to do a global replace, so the change is fine with me. --Wayne

I would be interested in the "fsc_* version" of partvelvec. Do you plan to make it public?

Thanks a lot!

Fabien

Subject: Re: Time to Fish or Cut Bait
Posted by [Matt\[2\]](#) on Thu, 03 Feb 2011 19:15:37 GMT
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On Feb 2, 9:21 pm, Paulo Penteado <pp.pente...@gmail.com> wrote:

> I use a prefix (pp_) for code I create. I only use a suffix (_pp) in
> the very specific case of wrappers or edits I did to code written by
> others (as in histogram_pp), so that it is clear that it is only a
> small modification to something I did not write. Also, it keeps the
> modification next to the original code alphabetically.

I like this idea. I use a lot of mhs_ for my code, but haven't postfixed for minor tweaks.

Really I think the best thing would be if ITTVIS decided it wanted to be a modern language, then you could just use a namespace.

Matt
