
Subject: Re: Yesterday's Coyote Graphics Update
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2011 15:26:56 GMT
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What revision # does that correspond to in your repo? I just checked the tags directory but the latest I see is dated 20110103 (which, BTW, doesn't appear to include your catalyst library.)

cheers,

paulv

David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,
>
> That last Coyote Graphics update yesterday was a bit
> of a bust. :-(
>
> I was fooling around trying to get a keyword inheritance
> issue to work, and when I was unsuccessful, I didn't
> manage to back all the way out of my changes. In particular,
> cgImage, cgPlot, cgSurf, and cgContour were put in a condition
> where it was impossible to pass keyword values to them in
> resizeable windows. Yikes!
>
> There has been a corrective update today, which I think
> will put everything back to normal, while still preserving
> some of the PostScript solutions we were working on yesterday,
> too.
>
> Sorry for the mix-up. I should have taken more time with
> that.
>
> <http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/coyoteprograms.zip>
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
>

Subject: Re: Yesterday's Coyote Graphics Update
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2011 15:39:37 GMT
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Paul van Delst writes:

> What revision # does that correspond to in your repo? I just checked the tags directory but the latest I see is dated
> 20110103 (which, BTW, doesn't appear to include your catalyst library.)

I haven't tagged these yet because I have been waiting for them to go 2 hours without being changed. Sigh... I should do this.

The most nerve wracking part of book publishing is the point where you have to hit that send button and commit your ignorance and folly to what appears to be stone. It is **extremely** difficult to do!

OK, I know the book is not perfect. I also know it is not because of lack of effort or foolishness. Ignorance probably plays a big role. Deep breath....

Alright, I am going to go tag this release right now. Wish me luck. :-(

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: Yesterday's Coyote Graphics Update
Posted by [Matteo Romano](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2011 15:43:35 GMT
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On Feb 18, 8:15 am, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

> Folks,
>
> That last Coyote Graphics update yesterday was a bit
> of a bust. :-(
>
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> issue to work, and when I was unsuccessful, I didn't
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> cgImage, cgPlot, cgSurf, and cgContour were put in a condition

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>
> <http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/coyoteprograms.zip>
>
> 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.")

Dear Dr Fanning,

I am excited to see how you lead this group discussion on the IDL language. It is very useful for my work with IDL. I would like to be able to purchase your book in the printed way, but I also notice that you have the chance to make many updates to the programs in the book (cg*.pro). Can I ask how the book shall keep in line with the updated programs? Is there a chance the book will be out of date when new programs are on your website? I hope there is some way to solve this problem.

Sincerely,
Matteo.

Subject: Re: Yesterday's Coyote Graphics Update
Posted by [penteado](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2011 16:07:56 GMT
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On Feb 18, 1:39 pm, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:
> The most nerve wracking part of book publishing is
> the point where you have to hit that send button
> and commit your ignorance and folly to what appears
> to be stone. It is *extremely* difficult to do!
>

- > OK, I know the book is not perfect. I also know it
- > is not because of lack of effort or foolishness.
- > Ignorance probably plays a big role. Deep breath....

Another advantage of electronic formats. Softer stone to edit.

For some book I bought from O'Reilly, I got email notifications when there were updates available to download.

Also, I would suggest, if possible, to enable in the PDFs commenting through Acrobat Reader. That way people without the full Acrobat can put annotations on the text. I think that Kindle already allows notes on every book. The inability to make annotations is one of the reasons some people have to prefer printed copies.

Subject: Re: Yesterday's Coyote Graphics Update
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2011 16:14:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Matteo Romano writes:

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- > language. It is very useful for my work with IDL. I would like to be
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- > (cg*.pro). Can I ask how the book shall keep in line with the updated
- > programs? Is there a chance the book will be out of date when new
- > programs are on your website? I hope there is some way to solve this
- > problem.

Yes, there is **every** chance of that! Thank you for reminding me. :-)

Here is how it works. When I work up enough courage (and raise enough funds, but that's another story) to commit this book to the printer I will also "freeze" the code I used to produce the book. This goes into a special area of my web page devoted to the book.

So, if you want to read the book and work with the programs in **exactly** the way it is described in the book, the programs are available to do so.

But, as you point out, the programs are likely out of date. That is the reality. Life doesn't stop when you finish a book. You still need to take out the garbage, as my wife so lovingly reminded me this morning. If you want

the *latest* programs, they are always available (on what seems to be an hourly schedule lately!) on my web page.

When I develop programs I am always mindful that programs should be backward compatible unless there is an EXTREMELY compelling reason not to be. (The big name change recently seemed a sufficiently compelling reason to me, given my future plans, etc.) So, even the *new*, constantly developing programs should "work" with the book. But they might (I would expect them to) have new features, bug fixes, etc., that are not described in the book. Not much I can do about that. It is the nature of the book business.

But, I can do a LOT about the PDF version of the book. I can fix typos, thank God! So, if you want to be completely up to date, I should think in addition to the paperback version of the book, you might also want to purchase a PDF version of the book.

I don't have an official "policy" about replacing PDF files, but I am known to be a soft touch when someone contacts me personally and lavishes praise on me. :-)

I'm saying, if you buy something from me, I generally remember who you are and I feel grateful I don't have to work for a living. You will probably get an update from me.

Does that satisfy you?

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: Yesterday's Coyote Graphics Update
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2011 16:48:53 GMT
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Paulo Penteado wrote:

> On Feb 18, 1:39 pm, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:
>> The most nerve wracking part of book publishing is

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>> and commit your ignorance and folly to what appears
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> For some book I bought from O'Reilly, I got email notifications when
> there were updates available to download.

similar for pragmatic programmers, and manning publishers - they contact me, and I have an online library when I log into my "bookshelf" at their sites where I can see what needs to be updated/re-downloaded.

> Also, I would suggest, if possible, to enable in the PDFs commenting
> through Acrobat Reader. That way people without the full Acrobat can
> put annotations on the text. I think that Kindle already allows notes
> on every book. The inability to make annotations is one of the reasons
> some people have to prefer printed copies.

Ooo... that's a good idea. I never did that in my paper books (grew up using library books) so doing it for my pdf books never occurred to me. Kewl.

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: Yesterday's Coyote Graphics Update
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2011 16:55:07 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Paul van Delst writes:

> similar for pragmatic programmers, and manning publishers - they contact me, and I have an online library when I log
> into my "bookshelf" at their sites where I can see what needs to be updated/re-downloaded.

Yes, I put "Learn PHP and MySQL Development" on my ToDo list already. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Tagged release available in the repository.

--

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.")
