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Subject: Font Tables Gone

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 01 Sep 2011 22:31:33 GMT

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Folks,

We probably don't need more examples of how bad the IDL documentation has gotten lately, but I have decided, at long last, that I am too embarrassed to continue selling IDL Programming Techniques, 2nd Edition any more and I am working on a 3rd Edition. So, I have been bringing myself up-to-date by reading the documentation again.

Goodness! Where has it all gone!? And, worse, what remains seems to be wrong in some particulars. At least, I can't get MY version of IDL to behave that way.

Anyway, I happened to be looking for the proper way to define a degree symbol and I noticed that the old font tables are completely gone from the IDL 8 documentation. The good news, I guess, is that we don't have to be bothered by all that octal nonsense anymore. But, the bad news is, there is soon going to be a whole generation of IDL programmers who won't know how to cook anything that doesn't come in a box.

I guess I'll have to put these in the appendix of the book. If nothing else, we need to preserve them for posterity. :-(

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let this be a lesson to you. When you upgrade your IDL, keep your old IDL help files somewhere close by. You are going to need them some day!

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

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

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