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Subject: Re: One Reason Python is not taking over for IDL  
Posted by [Russell\[1\]](#) on Wed, 21 Dec 2011 17:08:24 GMT  
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I have rejected Python time and time again, because I find I spend so much time tracking down compatibility issues. Which is \*ALL\* after the nightmare installing the bloody software.

Personally, I think this goes back to the recent surge for Mac OSX. Scientists are migrating to Mac (and holding onto their IDL), because you get what you pay for. Sure those things cost more money than their alternatives (Python v IDL, Linux v Mac), but what you pay for in dollars --- you make up with ease of use, reliability, and global infrastructure. I have little doubt that one day, Python will be as attractive to me as IDL --- and I might begrudgingly join the Dark Side (such as I'm hired to work in Python-land).

I'm willing to believe that Python is a better language, but never because it's cheaper. I'm willing to pay for a product that works.

Russell

On Dec 21, 11:33 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
> Here is one (probably the main) reason Python is not taking  
> over for IDL:  
>  
> <http://software-carpentry.org/2011/12/it-just-keeps-on-hurting/>  
>  
> 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.")

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Subject: Re: One Reason Python is not taking over for IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 21 Dec 2011 17:16:29 GMT  
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Russell writes:

> I'm willing to believe that Python is a better language, but never  
> because it's cheaper. I'm willing to pay for a product that works.

Humm. What do we say, then, about IDL 8.x? :-(

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.")

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Subject: Re: One Reason Python is not taking over for IDL  
Posted by [Russell\[1\]](#) on Wed, 21 Dec 2011 20:31:32 GMT

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I've recently graduated to IDL >8 (specifically 8.1), and for the most part everything is in good shape. I don't, on the other hand, use many of the new features and largely still do things "the old fashioned way" (e.g. using things like the procedural plotting routines) because I work closely with people who are still using IDL 7.x and we share code. I'm anxious to learn about the new features (and bugs), when my collaborators catch up!

I did have to change a few minor things --- but all of them are backwards-compatible. But it was readily apparent what the problem(s) are/were.

R

On Dec 21, 12:16 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Russell writes:

>> I'm willing to believe that Python is a better language, but never  
>> because it's cheaper. I'm willing to pay for a product that works.

>

> Humm. What do we say, then, about IDL 8.x? :-(

>

> 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.")
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