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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2012 23:33:08 GMT  
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Mark Piper writes:

> IDL 8.2.1 is now available for download from our website, [www.exelisvis.com](http://www.exelisvis.com). I've listed what's new here:  
>  
> <http://idldatapoint.com/2012/10/03/idl-8-2-1-released/>  
>  
> and included a link to download a set of example programs.

You know what seems to be missing here? Quality control. Here are the first two things I tried. Honestly. I don't make this stuff up.

I went to Mark's website and read his blurb about the new ColorTable function. I thought that was neat, so I downloaded and installed IDL 8.2.1. The first thing I read in the ColorTable documentation was this sort of odd description of the Background keyword:

"Set this keyword to a string or three-element array describing the colors of the table. Default value is [0, 0, 0]."

OK, so I used the example right there in the documentation and tried to set a yellow background keyword, since I don't really understand what a background keyword can really be used for in a ColorTable function. Here is what I typed:

```
IDL> ctable = COLORTABLE([[085,026,139],[135,206,255],[0,255,0]], $  
    NCOLORS = levels, /TRANSPOSE, Background=[255,255,0])
```

Here is the error I got:

```
% COLORTABLE: BACKGROUND must be a RGB triplet or string
```

Sigh...

Ok, so moving on, the next thing in Mark's list that caught my eye was a new "Class Hierarchy view for viewing properties and methods of super- and subclasses." Again, a little oddly phrased, but I just assume the documentation writer is not a native English speaker. I understand what he meant. And, OK, I can definitely use that!

So, I open my cgMap object, which inherits a cgCoord object,

which inherits a cgContainer object, which inherits both an IDL\_Object and an IDL\_Container object. Perfect test.

I don't know how to describe what I ended up with, but "hierarchical view" doesn't really do it justice. "God-awful mis-mash" comes closer. Here is a picture of it.

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/class\\_hierarchy.png](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/class_hierarchy.png)

Do you suppose that is what this is \*suppose\* to look like!?

I've got other things to do. I'm really restoring a computer that refuses to boot and is resisting all attempts at repair. I'm just looking at this stuff for fun and because I like to be up-to-date on the latest catastrophies. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2012 23:41:10 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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David Fanning writes:

- > I've got other things to do. I'm really restoring a computer
- > that refuses to boot and is resisting all attempts at repair.
- > I'm just looking at this stuff for fun and because I like to
- > be up-to-date on the latest catastrophies. :-)

By the way, I do note a positive development in the IDL language itself. You can now use a START keyword with all the INDGEN functions:

```
Print, Indgen(10, Start=5)
```

It's 7 more keystrokes than the old way of doing this:

```
Print, Indgen(10) + 5
```

But, it's a LOT more elegant! And, I'm happy the developers are spending my maintenance dollars wisely.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [dg86](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 00:05:39 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On the plus side, the z-axis labels on 3D function graphics plots now are oriented correctly.

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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 14:30:56 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Hello,

On 10/03/12 19:41, David Fanning wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>

>> I've got other things to do. I'm really restoring a computer

>> that refuses to boot and is resisting all attempts at repair.

>> I'm just looking at this stuff for fun and because I like to

>> be up-to-date on the latest catastrophies. :-)

>

> By the way, I do note a positive development in the IDL

> language itself. You can now use a START keyword with all

> the INDGEN functions:

>

> Print, Indgen(10, Start=5)

>

> It's 7 more keystrokes than the old way of doing this:

>

> Print, Indgen(10) + 5

>

> But, it's a LOT more elegant! And, I'm happy the developers  
> are spending my maintenance dollars wisely.

First off: MWROWRRRR!

Is that acerbic, rather than your normal good-natured, sarcasm I'm  
reading? :o)

That computer you're working on must be really giving you trouble....

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 14:35:49 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Paul van Delst writes:

> First off: MWROWRRRR!  
>  
> Is that acerbic, rather than your normal good-natured, sarcasm I'm  
> reading? :o)  
>  
> That computer you're working on must be really giving you trouble....

Aaaaughhhhh!

I'm thinking of going into farming. :-(

Cheers,

David

--  
David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
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Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Scott\[1\]](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 15:09:04 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David, regarding the class hierarchy, when I have one copy of the coyote graphics library on my  
IDL path the hierarchy works properly. However when I put two copies of the library on my path I

get the behavior you are seeing.  
Cheers,  
Scott

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Scott\[1\]](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 15:18:45 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Also, you can turn on the "duplicate routine warnings" feature to be alerted to the fact that you have multiple copies of a library on your path. In this case I get 2,645 warning messages in the Problems view when I have two copies of the coyote library on my path.  
-Scott

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Scott\[1\]](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 15:21:24 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Also, you can turn on the "duplicate routine warnings" feature to be alerted to the fact that you have multiple copies of a library on your path. In this case I get over 2,000 warning messages in the Problems View and warning markers on every cg\* file when I have two copies of the coyote library on my path.  
-Scott

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 15:34:17 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Scott E writes:

> David, regarding the class hierarchy, when I have one copy of the coyote graphics library on my IDL path the hierarchy works properly. However when I put two copies of the library on my path I get the behavior you are seeing.

Since I spend half my life preaching about ONE Coyote Library on an IDL path, it would be hypocrisy of the highest degree if I had more than that! I have only one copy of the Coyote Library.

But, who knows. I'll try it again once I get IDL 8.2.1 installed on my completely reconfigured hard drive. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
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Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Mark Piper](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 15:39:16 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Wednesday, October 3, 2012 6:05:39 PM UTC-6, David Grier wrote:  
> On the plus side, the z-axis labels on 3D function graphics plots now are oriented correctly.

Hi David,

Yes, this was an unfortunate bug. However, it first appeared in 8.2 and it was fixed in 8.2.1. We're trying to be more responsive in fixing bugs, and I think this is a good example.

I'd like to go further: if a bug is reported, and it has a pro code solution (like this one), we'll try to fix it as soon as possible and I'll post a solution, either here or on my [idldatapoint.com](http://idldatapoint.com) blog. Please take me up on this.

Regards,  
Mark Piper  
IDL Product Manager

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 15:57:54 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Hello,

On 10/04/12 11:39, Mark Piper wrote:  
> I'd like to go further: if a bug is reported,

I'm curious. How does one report an IDL bug?

Officially, I mean; rather than grousing on this newsgroup. :o)

cheers,

paulv

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Mark Piper](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 15:58:19 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Wednesday, October 3, 2012 5:41:16 PM UTC-6, David Fanning wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>

> By the way, I do note a positive development in the IDL

>

> language itself. You can now use a START keyword with all

>

> the INDGEN functions:

>

>

>

> Print, Indgen(10, Start=5)

>

>

>

> It's 7 more keystrokes than the old way of doing this:

>

>

>

> Print, Indgen(10) + 5

>

>

>

> But, it's a LOT more elegant! And, I'm happy the developers

>

> are spending my maintenance dollars wisely.

>

David,

The START keyword came about from the discussion in this thread earlier this year:

[https://groups.google.com/d/msg/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/RYPtjDBKHol/zYJ\\_n9gRn4MJ](https://groups.google.com/d/msg/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/RYPtjDBKHol/zYJ_n9gRn4MJ)

where Chris explains his rationale for adding it:

"It's much faster to specify START than to add an offset to the indgen after you've created it."

Regards,  
Mark Piper  
IDL Product Manager

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released

Posted by [Mark Piper](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 16:06:13 GMT

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

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On Wednesday, October 3, 2012 5:33:14 PM UTC-6, David Fanning wrote:

> Mark Piper writes:

>

>

>

>> IDL 8.2.1 is now available for download from our website, [www.exelisvis.com](http://www.exelisvis.com). I've listed what's new here:

>

>>

>

>> <http://idldatapoint.com/2012/10/03/idl-8-2-1-released/>

>

>>

>

>> and included a link to download a set of example programs.

>

>

>

> You know what seems to be missing here? Quality control.

>

> Here are the first two things I tried. Honestly. I don't

>

> make this stuff up.

>

>

>

> I went to Mark's website and read his blurb about the new

>

> ColorTable function. I thought that was neat, so I downloaded

>

> and installed IDL 8.2.1. The first thing I read in the

>

> ColorTable documentation was this sort of odd description

>

> of the Background keyword:

>

>

>

> "Set this keyword to a string or three-element array describing

>

> the colors of the table. Default value is [0, 0, 0]."

>

>

>

> OK, so I used the example right there in the documentation and

>

> tried to set a yellow background keyword, since I don't really  
>  
> understand what a background keyword can really be used for  
>  
> in a ColorTable function. Here is what I typed:  
>  
>  
>  
> IDL> ctable = COLORTABLE([[085,026,139],[135,206,255],[0,255,0]], \$  
>  
> NCOLORS = levels, /TRANSPPOSE, Background=[255,255,0])  
>  
>  
>  
> Here is the error I got:  
>  
>  
>  
> % COLORTABLE: BACKGROUND must be a RGB triplet or string  
>  
>  
>  
> Sigh...  
>

Yes, this is unfortunate. I'm in contact with the developer who wrote COLORTABLE, and since this is pro code, I'll provide an updated version as soon as possible.

>  
> Ok, so moving on, the next thing in Mark's list that caught  
>  
> my eye was a new "Class Hierarchy view for viewing properties  
>  
> and methods of super- and subclasses." Again, a little oddly  
>  
> phrased, but I just assume the documentatation writer is not  
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> a native English speaker. I understand what he meant. And,  
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> OK, I can definitely use that!  
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>  
>  
> So, I open my cgMap object, which inherits a cgCoord object,  
>  
> which inherits a cgContainer object, which inherits both an  
>  
> IDL\_Object and an IDL\_Container object. Perfect test.

>  
>  
>  
> I don't know how to describe what I ended up with, but  
>  
> "hierarchical view" doesn't really do it justice. "God-awful  
>  
> mis-mash" comes closer. Here is a picture of it.  
>  
>  
>  
> [http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/class\\_hierarchy.png](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/class_hierarchy.png)  
>  
>  
>  
> Do you suppose that is what this is \*suppose\* to look like!?  
>

It looks like this:

<http://idldatapoint.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/screenshot-windows.png>

on Windows and like this:

<http://idldatapoint.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/screenshot-linux.png>

on Linux (the two OS I have available to me right now).

>  
> I've got other things to do. I'm really restoring a computer  
>  
> that refuses to boot and is resisting all attempts at repair.  
>  
> I'm just looking at this stuff for fun and because I like to  
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> be up-to-date on the latest catastrophies. :-)  
>  
>  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
>  
>  
> David  
>  
>  
>

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

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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 16:06:45 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Mark Piper writes:

> The START keyword came about from the discussion in this thread earlier this year:  
>  
> [https://groups.google.com/d/msg/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/RYPtjDBKHol/zYJ\\_n9gRn4MJ](https://groups.google.com/d/msg/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/RYPtjDBKHol/zYJ_n9gRn4MJ)  
>  
> where Chris explains his rationale for adding it:  
>  
> "It's much faster to specify START than to add an offset to the indgen after you've created it."

Ah, I knew there must have been a reason for it. But, I was feeling grumpy after the first two new things I tried turned out poorly. I've paid a lot of money for things I haven't been able to use in the past several years. And, at that particular moment, the START keyword felt a little frivolous. Sorry!

Cheers,

David

--  
David Fanning, Ph.D.  
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Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Mark Piper](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 16:11:20 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Thursday, October 4, 2012 9:57:55 AM UTC-6, Paul van Delst wrote:

> Hello,  
>  
>  
>  
> On 10/04/12 11:39, Mark Piper wrote:  
>  
>> I'd like to go further: if a bug is reported,  
>  
>  
>  
> I'm curious. How does one report an IDL bug?  
>  
>  
>  
> Officially, I mean; rather than grousing on this newsgroup. :o)  
>  
>  
>  
> cheers,  
>  
>  
>  
> paulv

Hi Paul,

Tech Support: call 303-413-3920 and you'll get to talk to Jared, Joe or David; or you can email [support@exelisvis.com](mailto:support@exelisvis.com).

Grousing is a good way to get my attention, though.

mp

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 16:17:55 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Mark Piper writes:

> It looks like this:  
>  
> [http://idldatapoint.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/screenshot-w\\_indows.png](http://idldatapoint.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/screenshot-w_indows.png)

>  
> on Windows and like this:  
>  
> [http://idldatapoint.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/screenshot-l\\_inux.png](http://idldatapoint.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/screenshot-l_inux.png)  
>  
> on Linux (the two OS I have available to me right now).

Well, I don't know. I'm on a Windows machine (my laptop), running an up-to-date version of Windows 7 Professional, and I have confirmed there is a SINGLE copy of the Coyote Library on my IDL path, and my Workbench looks like this:

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/class\\_hierarchy.png](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/class_hierarchy.png)

(Updated just a minute ago to give the whole Workbench, as in your example.)

I don't know how to explain the differences. Any ideas?

My working theory is that IDL 8.x hates me, but I understand from my therapist that software is probably not capable of this.

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Scott\[1\]](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 16:56:36 GMT  
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Is it possible that you have it on your IDL path, but then you also have all the code in an open project that is set to automatically be added to the path (IDL project properties)?

If you turn on the duplicate routine warnings feature and look in your Problems View, are there warnings? If so you can see what the conflicts are and then see where the duplicates are coming from.

Thanks,  
Scott

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Scott\[1\]](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 17:07:08 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Actually I see from your last screenshot that the Problems View tab is bold. That means there are warnings there. Please check it and see if the warnings there might help track down where the duplicates are coming from.

Thanks,  
Scott

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 17:10:01 GMT  
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Scott E writes:

- > Is it possible that you have it on your IDL path, but then
- > you also have all the code in an open project that is set
- > to automatically be added to the path (IDL project properties)?

No, I right-click on the coyote project and confirm that the button that puts it on the IDL path when the project is opened is deselected, as it should be.

- > If you turn on the duplicate routine warnings feature and look in
- > your Problems View, are there warnings? If so you can see what
- > the conflicts are and then see where the duplicates are coming from.

Yes, there are warnings. Most seem be coming from the days before the Coyote Library, when I embedded needed programs in the source code of other programs. I get a ton of warnings about FSC\_Normalize, for example, which is in every object graphics program I wrote prior to 2002. None of the warnings mentions anything about cgMap, cgCoord, or cgContainer.

Thanks for looking into this.

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 17:24:13 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Scott E writes:

- > Is it possible that you have it on your IDL path, but then
- > you also have all the code in an open project that is set
- > to automatically be added to the path (IDL project properties)?

A thought comes to mind. Since I am VERY careful to have only one Coyote Library directory, this coyote project is created not in the IDL workspace, but from that one directory on my C drive. I have both IDL 7.1.2 and IDL 8.2.1 installed on this machine, and they both have that one directory as a project (although in different workspaces). Do you think that has anything to do with this?

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 18:03:29 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Scott E writes:

- > Is it possible that you have it on your IDL path, but then
- > you also have all the code in an open project that is set
- > to automatically be added to the path (IDL project properties)?

Oh, hang on! This does now appear to be my fault. I was showing someone last week how to set up a Coyote directory from the idl-coyote Subversion repository. I downloaded the files, then showed them how to make that the coyote project directory. But, I had the \*original\* Coyote directory in my IDL path.

My apologies. I take back everything I've ever said bad about IDL 8.x. It's a wonderful piece of software. And, I note, that when you specify 10 colors in the new ColorTable function, you actually get 10 colors in the color bar. Fixing that problem has improved my IDL outlook immeasurably! :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Alas, I was all set to send this message. I only had to confirm that getting back to my original set-up solved the problem. But, IDL is now hanging in trying to make the coyote project from the right directory. Sigh...

I can neither kill the Project Wizard (because there is an "active" project going on, a poor choice of words under the circumstances), nor exit IDL (because it is being blocked by the Project Wizard).

I'll probably be in limbo the rest of my life... :-(

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

---

Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Scott\[1\]](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 18:06:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

That's interesting but no, sorry, I don't see how that could be part of the issue...

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Subject: Re: IDL 8.2.1 released  
Posted by [Mark Piper](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2012 23:23:22 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Thursday, October 4, 2012 10:06:13 AM UTC-6, Mark Piper wrote:

> On Wednesday, October 3, 2012 5:33:14 PM UTC-6, David Fanning wrote:

>

> Yes, this is unfortunate. I'm in contact with the developer who wrote COLORTABLE, and since this is pro code, I'll provide an updated version as soon as possible.

>

Here's a updated version of colortable.pro:

`ftp://download.exelisvis.com/groups/esg/dropoff/colortable.p ro`

You can drop this into the lib/graphics directory of your IDL distribution.

mp

---