
Subject: Re: Who is this masked man?

Posted by [sandy](#) on Wed, 10 Jul 1991 13:17:33 GMT

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In response to Mark R. Thomsen:

>> David M. Legler writes

>> I assume the heritage of these packages goes back to a common ancestor

>> somewhere. What was it and how long ago did it exist ?

>

> I was told by a guy on the NCAR Graphics team that IDL, NCAR Graphics,

> and PV Wave share the same original architect/author. He said the name

> but I forgot it.

> Who is this masked man? I think IDL was the name of the original package.

The man is David Stern at Research Systems, Inc., Denver. At the University of MI med center, we have been using IDL for at least 8 years now -- I don't know how much older than that IDL might be.

--

Sandy Simon

Systems Research Programmer

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Subject: Re: Who is this masked man?

Posted by [rob](#) on Thu, 11 Jul 1991 16:32:42 GMT

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In article <1991Jul10.131733.22426@terminator.cc.umich.edu> sandy@eagle.cd.med.umich.edu (Sandy Simon) writes:

> In response to Mark R. Thomsen:

...

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>> and PV Wave share the same original architect/author. He said the name

>> but I forgot it.

>> Who is this masked man? I think IDL was the name of the original package.

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> The man is David Stern at Research Systems, Inc., Denver. At the University

> of MI med center, we have been using IDL for at least 8 years now -- I don't

> know how much older than that IDL might be.

RSI was founded in 1977, as mentioned by Ali Bahrami of RSI (Boulder, CO). David Stern is your man for IDL (and later PV~WAVE -- see other articles for the details of how this came about), and the roots were at the University of Colorado.

Here are a few words from the old NCAR Graphics Version 2.00 User's Guide:

The NCAR graphics package dates from the mid-1960s. The initial impetus for the package was to produce a set of plotting tools to support NCAR scientists in their research. Most of the code has been written by the staff of the Scientific Computing Division of NCAR ...

As mentioned by Ray Bovet of NCAR (also in Boulder), Tom Wright was the principal creator of NCAR Graphics.

Hope this helps,

Rob
