
Subject: Re: A rant: features vs. programming features

Posted by [mgs](#) on Sat, 01 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <gurman-0111970837320001@goodgulf.nascom.nasa.gov>, gurman@ari.net (Joseph B. Gurman) wrote:

- > One area of functionality that I thought was screaming for attention
- > was the production of Web-based material, specifically:

...

- > Is anyone else interested in the kind of features I've mentioned, or
- > am I totally crazy? I get the impression that almost everyone who uses IDL
- > to display data representations eventually puts some of those
- > representations on the Web, or would like to.

I certainly would have liked to see some of the above programs. I ran into a large wall last year trying to make movies of hyperspectral data. It seemed everyone wanted movies of it, so I ended up tying together several applications on a Mac to make them. It would have been great to just pop up a dialog asking for the output format and have IDL handle it.

Another area that I recall being tossed around for the next (now current) release of IDL was a standalone output command of some sort. Basically, a way to provide applications to someone without having to provide an IDL license. Any word on progress toward that?

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Subject: Re: A rant: features vs. programming features

Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Mon, 03 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Joseph B. Gurman wrote:

- >
- > I was wondering whether anyone else has the impression that I do of
- > IDL 5: that it makes programming many things easier, and certainly niftier
- > (at least if OOP is your idea of nifty), but it hasn't added much in the
- > way of real functionality.
- >

> One area of functionality that I thought was screaming for attention
> was the production of Web-based material, specifically:
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>

<snip>

Amen, Brother!

I could have used each of these routines last month!

I am pleased, though, that write_gif and write_pict exist within IDL.

Subject: Re: A rant: features vs. programming features
Posted by [art.croucher](#) on Mon, 03 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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Counter-rant:

You could be using PV-Wave, which is completely lacking in ANY features which make programming easier. The tools available to Wave users under NT are somewhat more primitive than what I had when I learned Fortran (in the '70s). No editor of any kind (let alone language-sensitive), and no debugger.

VNI adds new display features constantly, but they seem to have absolutely no idea that some of us actual PROGRAM using their product.

There are actually a few programs that I'd like to program using the fancy features, but I'd happily program that stuff myself in exchange for having the programming tools that would let me save 50% of my time on 100% of my programming.

Art Croucher
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab

Joseph B. Gurman wrote:

>
> I was wondering whether anyone else has the impression that I do of
> IDL 5: that it makes programming many things easier, and certainly niftier
> (at least if OOP is your idea of nifty), but it hasn't added much in the
> way of real functionality.
>

(snip)

> --
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