
Subject: Why not use free code?

Posted by [meinel](#) on Tue, 08 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:

> You know, even with as much free code as there is out there,
> I find that not too many people use it. I don't really know
> why.

Ah, my pet peeve. I have two problems with much of the free code out there.

1) Portability

I can't count the number of times I have tried to use free code, but it won't work because the programmer put in some platform-specific operations. At that point it is usually easier to write my own code than try to hack the free stuff.

The main reason I switched over to IDL was for platform-independent development. Otherwise I would have stayed with FORTRAN-90.

2) Flexibility

Too often the free code will only work with:

- a specific data format, or
- a specific data size, or
- a specific data type, or ...

Even some procedures supplied in the IDL library fail in this area.

That is why I rarely use "free" code.

Ed Meinel

-----== Posted via Deja News, The Leader in Internet Discussion ==-----

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