
Subject: FAQ Updates

Posted by [mgs](#) on Sat, 15 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi all -

It seems as if the new FAQ is well-received. I haven't had any outright complaints, but I do see from the server logs that the old style FAQ is still being accessed pretty regularly. Whether that's from preference, or just folks that do not know about the latest incarnation is unknown. If there are complaints about the current FAQ, please send them along. I've had several suggestions, and have tried to accomodate them.

One suggestion was to be able to search by date. That's now been added to both the "Search" and "List" queries. The dates are flexible, and should accept most variations. The 1st date field is for the beginning date, inclusive. The 2nd date field is for the end date, inclusive. In other words, entering 5/1/1999 in the 1st field would find all records greater than or equal to May 01, 1999. Entering 5/1/1999 in the 2nd field would find all records less than or equal to May 01, 1999. Entering 5/1/1999 in both fields would find only the records created on May 01, 1999. Keep in mind that this is running on a U.S. system, which implies MM/DD/YYYY is the standard date format. If your date query doesn't work correctly, try the above format. If it still doesn't work correctly, let me know. Note that this version of the FAQ began life on April 27, 1999, so all entries before that time are listed as 04/27/1999. I could probably figure out the actual entry dates by going through the appendices, but don't hold your breath :-)

Another suggestion was to provide an input format so that folks with in-house FAQ's could add them to this FAQ in one shot. Unfortunately, there is no simple method to make that happen over the internet. However, it's pretty simple for me to import files containing someone else's data into the FAQ. The only real items I need for inputs are Question and Answer for each item. Other items like email address and category are helpful, but not mandatory. If you'd like several items to be added at once, send them to me either as an email attachment, or send them to the anonymous ftp site at <<ftp://ftp.ivsoftware.com/pub/incoming>> and let me know by email that something has been dropped off.

Another suggestion was to encourage people to pose general questions that might not be suitable for the newsgroup, but would like to have answers to. Specific questions should still remain on the newsgroup. Perhaps the original requestor (hi Phillip) will get this started.

<<http://www.ivsoftware.com:8000/FAQ/>> is the location for the FAQ.
< http://www.ivsoftware.com/pub/faq/IDL_FAQ_Update19990515.htm I> is a snapshot containing the changed or added items from May 01, through May

15, 1999.

<http://www.ivsoftware.com/pub/faq/IDL_FAQ_19990515.html> is a snapshot containing the latest version of the FAQ as of May 15, 1999.

I'll work on something to make a decent sort on the full listing next time around. Right now it's alphabetical by category, which puts the appendices first. That's not exactly the standard way of listing items.

I have some other things I will be adding to the FAQ eventually. Again, let me know if there are changes or additional items you'd like to see.

Regards,

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Mike Schienle
mgs@ivsoftware.com

<http://www.ivsoftware.com/>

Interactive Visuals, Inc.
Remote Sensing and Image Processing
Analysis and Application Development
