
Subject: Re: IDL or PV~Wave?

Posted by [zawodny](#) on Tue, 25 May 1993 11:35:50 GMT

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In article <1tqqbm\$qm@elroy.jpl.nasa.gov> alan@elroy.Jpl.Nasa.Gov (Alan S. Mazer) writes:

> (stuff deleted)

> In addition to their regular widgets. And I find the Wave widgets easier to
> use. Wave doesn't crash on me, locking up my workstation. Perhaps the
> stuff you've cited is critical to other people, but for me Wave offers the
> right combination of reliability and flexibility (and polish) that I need.

Well that is quite a set of accusations. In my 12+ years of IDL programming I can never recall IDL crashing the system or "locking up my workstation". I did see an alpha release of IDL for the PC bomb once but, my IDL for Windows has performed flawlessly.

On the subject of widgets and GUI's, I have found that the IDL widgets are actually quite easy to use. I went from never having seen a widget procedure to having a working (and useful) widget based program of intermediate complexity in one day (8 hours). I can't think of anything easier unless someone were to write it for me.

I think a major point of consideration when selecting a software package is the track record of the company your dealing with. While I can say nothing to the pro or con with respect to Visual Numerics (formerly PVI), I have found the folks at RSI very helpful and competent. Very frequently, I find things that I have suggested as a potential improvement to IDL appearing in a latter release.

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