Subject: Re: Relationship between IDL and PVWAVE
Posted by churchill on Sun, 05 May 1991 09:52:35 GMT
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In article <1991May3.165723.28887@nevada.edu>, ramesh@nevada.edu (RAMESH VISWANATHAN) writes:
> In article <288@venice.water.ca.gov> rfinch@caldwr.water.ca.gov (Ralph Finch) writes:
>>
>> I am frankly not happy with PVI's handling of their version of IDL.
>> It costs a lot more than IDL and any significant additions they have
>> added, such as Widgets or Point-and-Click, cost yet extra! Besides
>> which PVI seems hung up on Sunview interfaces. I'd sure like to see
>> some work done with Openwindows.
>
>
> I agree with the consensus that Point-and-Click is neither very exciting
> nor convenient for those real programmers who prefer the CLI (command
> line interface) but it offers some "user-friendliness" to those who are
> easily intimidated by having to learn and memorize commands.

We don't have it and the point-&-click method may not be to everyones liking
but I find it should save programmer's (my) time in the long run by reducing
the number of requests from end-users to write custom/one-off display routines.
The end-users can satisfy most of their own (boring) requests when there is a
suitable "user-friendly" interface. I can then spend more time on more
difficult and interesting problems.

> I too think that PVI is getting "a little" greedy in the prices they
> are asking for Point-and-Click. Methinks they should have offered it
> at much lower prices to existing users of Wave who are on the software
> maintenance contracts ;-> .

Agree 100%.

>
> The version of PV Wave I have (3.01) supports the OpenWindows interface.
>
>>> In IDL's newletter, they also
>>> indicate that they are working on a DOS version of IDL and a network
>>> floating license.
>
> Graphics Visualization on a 486 platform??!! Come on, let's get real.
> But then again it depends upon you application, I guess.

Don't rubbish PC's. They are/will be the necessary driving force to keep other
computer companies honest and on the ball.
>
>>> IDL Ver 2.1 also has a Statistics Package and some

>>> mapping and gridding routines also with a simple coastline database.
>
> I can go for that.

Me too. In fact I have used a similar package called Z which already has some
S+ features. Also, a new S+ will have more image visualization features. It
may make PV~Wave redundant on our site. So, unless PVI get their act together
and either re-establish links with IDL or progress along similar directions, we
can't see any advantage in staying with PV~Wave or even IDL. I think PV~Wave
and IDL should stay together to compete with other products.
>
>> PVI: are you listening? How about statistics, DOS, and so on? How
>> about providing *real* value for all the extra $$$'s your customers
>> are paying? How about at *least* telling your customers where you are
>> headed, especially with the split that just took place. I would
>> really rather hear about these things from you, rather than from the
>> Usenet (thank God for the net though).
>
> Yes, Peter [Hallet]. Are you there!?

Yeah! I wish PVI took a few pages out of TGV's (Multinet) book on handling
client queries.
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