
Subject: Re: Relationship between IDL and PVWAVE

Posted by [plonski](#) on Fri, 03 May 1991 03:28:45 GMT

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In article <12802@uhccux.uhcc.Hawaii.Edu>, william@kaula.keck.hawaii.edu (William Lupton) writes:

|> Can someone please explain the past, present and future relationship between
|> IDL (and Research Systems Inc) and PVWAVE (and Precision Visuals)? I had sort
|> of assumed that RSI had sold it to PVI but now I read that RSI are releasing a
|> new Motif / Open Look product called IDLwidgets. Is this the same as the PVWAVE
|> point and click product? Are both products continuing to be developed
|> separately? Or are they in fact continuing to be developed together?

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|> William Lupton (wlupton@keck.hawaii.edu)

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According to the latest IDL NEWSLETTER - SPRING 1991, IDL terminated their licensing agreement with PV-Wave as of Sept. 1990 and the products are now free to diverge. It would have been nice if IDL has announced this a little sooner as one of my colleagues just purchased PV-Wave under the assumption that PV-Wave was going to remain compatible with IDL (which is what I use).

I have played BRIEFLY with the command language version of PV-wave and the Point & Click version. I didn't like the Point & Click version at all. I had two other non-IDL users (1 with extensive SUNVIEW/X11 coding experience and one new to a SUN workstation and windowed environemt) also try the Point & Click version. Neither of them liked it as it simply takes too many mouse clicks to get anything done. It reminds me of why I dislike Macs, though, those users who prefer 10 mouse clicks to typing a single command might like it. As for the command language version of PV-Wave, it seemed identical to IDL and I don't know if it is worth the extra money. My colleague bought it because PV-Wave had a GSA purchase number, while IDL did not. If you have dealt with government purchasing then you would understand his decision. As for IDL's new widgets, I ASSUME that these are equivalent to the Wave-Widgets, though I have not had any time to play with these yet.

As for the future, who knows how the products will diverge. I plan to stay with IDL because I deal with several other groups that use IDL and only one person who uses PV-Wave. In IDL's newsletter, they also indicate that they are working on a DOS version of IDL and a network floating license. IDL Ver 2.1 also has a Statistics Package and some mapping and gridding routines also with a simple coastline database. They also ask in the newsletter if people would be interested in being able to use the NCAR coastline database at extra cost. I would

personally find this database very usefull and the more people that indicate this to IDL, the more likely that IDL will support it. Therefore, everyone should immediately send IDL mail (idl@boulder.colorado.edu) telling them that they want the NCAR database.

Note that these opinions are based on only a brief evaluation of PV-Wave. All standard disclaimers apply.

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those of the author and do not represent
those of The Aerospace Corporation.
"plonski@aero.org"
