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Subject: Re: IDL/PV-WAVE strengths/weaknesses  
Posted by [mms](#) on Tue, 06 Jul 1993 16:09:16 GMT  
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Robert E Kearney (rob@reflex.biomed.mcgill.ca) wrote:

> I am considering the purchase of a visualization package and  
> would appreciate any input regarding the relative merits of IDL  
> and pv-wave (or any other similar package).

I spent over two years as a software engineer at GE NMR in Fremont CA developing GUI's utilizing Sun's DevGuide and RSI's IDL. You should know that IDL is the progenitor of PV~WAVE. It was about 2 years ago when RSI sold off to Precision Visuals. Now PV~WAVE is a product unto itself.

I was using the tool to display NMR data sets upwards of 32Mb in size. IDL is a very powerful tool. Over the past year and a half, they have implemented a widget set to facilitate the use of IDL (vs. the regular command line interface). Perhaps you know that all of IDL CLI and its widget set can be scripted. As far as the widget set goes, I highly recommend keeping with the Motif side (considering the UniForum announcement last March where Sun now is dropping OPEN LOOK in the light of the up and coming Windows NT).

One side note. At the time IDL was significantly less expensive than PV~WAVE, but had the same functionality (before the sell-off). At this point, that is ancient pricing, I'm sure things have changed.

Regards.

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| Mark Scoville | Graphical User Interface Consultant |  
| mms@unisl.cslc.unisys.COM | UNISYS Corporation, Special Products Group |  
| Ph: (801) 594-5063 | 322 North 2200 West |  
| Fx: (801) 594-6708 | Salt Lake City, UT 84116 M/S D1V02 |  
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