
Subject: Re: IDL and WAVE: # and types of users?
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 22 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Joseph B. Gurman (gurman@gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

- > I would estimate the number of
- > IDL users at some tens of thousands.
- >
- > Of course, "users" is a broad term, including the clueless using code
- > developed by others.

I agree. In my own mind, I think 25,000 - 30,000 IDL users. Nearly as many PV-Wave users, probably. But an appallingly high percentage are probably what Joe (not me) called the "clueless". :-)

Even the non-clueless are using an amazingly small percentage of IDL functionality.

If you are thinking about writing a book, or trying to make a living as a consultant, and you really want to ask, Is it possible to do this given the IDL/PV-Wave market size? Then I would say, yes, if you are clever, do quality work, have a burning desire to work night and day, can learn the marketing/sales/accounting/public relations skills it requires to be successful, and have some money saved up (or an employed significant other) so you can eat while you are getting things going. After a year or two of happy clients, it's a cinch. :-)

Cheers,

David

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