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Subject: Re: java vs. IDL

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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reardonb@my-deja.com wrote:

>  
> Lately I have been learning java to address a number of modeling issues  
> where I work. I have also been playing around with IDL for about 3  
> years. I do not claim to be a master of either. It seems to me,  
> however, that Java offers many of the same features that IDL offers  
> (cross platform operability, a constantly growing library of functions,  
> easy to implement gui's) along with some definite advantages (it's  
> free, it's easier to learn, larger user/programmer base, completely OO)  
> It makes me wonder whether IDL will be able to hold its own in a Java  
> world. Could anyone out there with experience in both languages care to  
> speculate or at least enlighten me as to why IDL will always have a  
> niche?  
> Thanks.  
> Brian Reardon

"Why I use IDL" by Paul

```
IDL> myx=fltarr(100)
IDL> myy=fltarr(100)
IDL> openr,1,'mydata.binary'
IDL> readu,1,myx,myy
IDL> close,1
IDL> print, myx[0]
1.04215e-26
```

[paul: "Huh?"]

```
IDL> print, swap_endian(myx[0])
235.305
```

[paul: "That's better"]

```
IDL> plot, myx, myy
```

[paul: that was easy. look at my pretty data]

Generally, viewing long strings of numbers makes my eyeballs glaze over. The ability to read and view my data in 30seconds makes me happy. :o)

paulv

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