Subject: Re: java vs. IDL

Posted by reardonb on Wed, 22 Nov 2000 00:45:12 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

thanks, Vernon. Good break down of pros and cons.

In article <8u8v2n\$odl\$1@houston.jhuapl.edu>,

"Vernon Stark" <vern.stark@jhuapl.edu> wrote:

- > I have over 15 years of IDL experience and have also done a limited
- > amount of Java over the past few years. IDL has an excellent base of
- > software you can tap into to do math, plotting, image manipulation, etc.
- > It's also easy to code GUIs once you get the hang of it. In IDL, I can sit
- > down with a text file full of data and have it plotted in a matter of
- > minutes. The last time I tried to do that in Java, I found the file I/O
- > very limited. Just reading in and parsing the data from the text file was a
- > pain.

>

>

- > We've also found IDL excellent for software prototyping. In a few
- > months we put together a GUI application that does a lot of file I/O, image
- > manipulation, and handling of user input via GUIs. It started out as
- > roughly 10,000 lines of code and we've been adding to it and tweaking it and
- > it's grown to roughly 20,000 lines of code. We've toyed with the idea of
- > porting this GUI application to Java, but have stayed with IDL since it has
- > all the functionality we need and has served us very well so far in the
- > development of this application. The IDL library really facilitates image
- > manipulation, equation solving, plotting, etc. It would probably take a lot
- > more than 20,000 lines of Java code to have the same functionality.

> In short, the functionality of IDL allows one to quickly analyze and

- visualize data or do software prototyping. We feel we can get our data
- > analysis done and our software prototypes up and running faster in IDL than
- > we could in Java. If your goal is data analysis or software

prototyping, IDL > is hard to beat. If your goal is to have a nice piece of object oriented > code, you might choose Java. At the risk of stereotyping, I'd sum it up by > suggesting that if you're a data analyst you'll probably prefer IDL and if > you're a computer scientist you may prefer Java. > Vern > > <reardonb@my-deja.com> wrote in message news:8tuodt\$g0m\$1@nnrp1.deja.com... >> 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 definate 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 >> spectulate or at least enlighten me as to why IDL will always have a >> niche? >> Thanks. >> Brian Reardon >> >>

>> Sent via Deja.com http://www.deja.com/ >> Before you buy.

>

Sent via Deja.com http://www.deja.com/ Before you buy.