
Subject: Announcement: Envision 1.1 software available

Posted by [keith](#) on Fri, 01 Jul 1994 04:44:43 GMT

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**** ENVISION 1.1 RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT ****

We are pleased to announce that Envision version 1.1 is now available by anonymous FTP. This release is a major update of Envision version 1.0 previously released last October.

New Features in Envision v1.1

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1. IDL: new visualizations for 3-D perspective wire-mesh surface and georeferenced contour plots with continental outlines, latitude-longitude lines, and shaded contour fill. 1D and 2D Contour displays also have more options than before.
 2. NCSA Tools: the NCSA visualization tool XDataSlice is now linked into Envision. XDS is a 3-D slicer/dicer program. The options interface for Collage has been changed to allow XDS and Collage to be controlled from the same window simultaneously. XImage is no longer supported in Envision, since Collage has now completely replaced it.
 3. File Creation: Envision can create arbitrary HDF data files from any subset of a project. The user selects any number of variables (which may span multiple files) and can write these to a new file. Dimension ranges for these variables may be selected in a new interactive window to put sub-ranges of the data sets into the new file.
 4. Attributes: netCDF/HDF attributes may be created, edited, or deleted. Attributes are used to describe dimensions, variables, and files, and have a name and values (often a string). Coordinate values for dimensions (i.e. scales) can also be changed.
 5. File Updating: Data files may be updated with metadata changes made in the Envision interface.
 6. Object Restoring: in Envision, data objects (dimensions, variables, and attributes) which are deleted in the user interface are not actually removed from the data files from where they are stored (unless the file is updated). There are now options to restore these deleted objects (essentially an "undo" operation).
 7. IDL now works with Envision on SGI workstations running IRIX 5.1 or later.

8. Context-sensitive online help is now available for most interface options. The help system uses NCSA Mosaic and provides interactive access to the Envision User's Guide and links to other hypermedia documents across the Internet.

What is Envision?

Envision is an interactive system for the management and visualization of large scientific data sets. It runs on UNIX workstations under X/Motif, manages data stored in netCDF and HDF files, and does visualization using NCSA Collage, NCSA XDataSlice, and IDL.

Who is developing Envision

Envision is being jointly developed at the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Department of Meteorology at Texas A&M University. Funding for this project is from NASA's Applied Information Systems Research Program.

The principal investigators for the Envision project are Ken Bowman (TAMU), John Walsh (U of I), and Bob Wilhelmson (U of I/NCSA). Envision was written by Keith Searight (U of I), David Wojtowicz (U of I), and Sridhar Pathi (TAMU), with minor contributions by Ken Bowman.

How to get Envision

Envision is public domain software and is available by anonymous FTP. The primary ftp site for Envision is [vista.atmos.uiuc.edu](ftp://vista.atmos.uiuc.edu/pub/envision) in `pub/envision`. A secondary FTP site is [csrp.tamu.edu](ftp://csrp.tamu.edu). Included in the release are binaries for IBM RS6000, HP, Sun, and SGI, as well as source and make files. Complete documentation, sample data, and binaries to generate Envision project files for the sample data are provided. If you get Envision, we request that you report any bugs you find to envision@vista.atmos.uiuc.edu. We also welcome your suggestions for making Envision more useful to you.

Envision on the World Wide Web

The Envision Home Page has URL:
<http://www.atmos.uiuc.edu/envision/envision.html>

PLEASE NOTE: This is a brand new URL and it replaces all previous URLs for Envision-related WWW documents. If you have an old link to the Envision Home Page, this is a good time to update it!

The Envision Home Page has:

- (1) connections to text and graphics about the Envision project and what the software does.
- (2) links to hypermedia versions of recent Envision papers and a hypermedia presentation on Envision made at the American Meteorological Society / Interactive Information and Processing Systems meeting, Nashville, Jan. 1994.
- (3) links to hypermedia pages for other software packages used with Envision including HDF, netCDF, Collage, XDataSlice, and IDL.
- (4) a connection to the new hypertext Envision User's Guide

Envision Tutorial - Coming Soon!

An online tutorial for Envision is under construction. The tutorial will step you through examples illustrating the use of Envision to manage and visualize scientific data sets. It will contain text and graphical window captures viewable with Mosaic or other WWW browsers. Watch for it on the WWW Envision Home Page and/or our anonymous FTP servers.

Keith Searight, Research Programmer	k-searight@uiuc.edu
Univ. of Illinois, Atmospheric Sciences Dept.	Ph. (217) 333-8132
105 S. Gregory St., Urbana, IL 61801	Fax (217) 244-4393
