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Subject: Re: IDL vs PV-WAVE

Posted by [frodes](#) on Thu, 25 Aug 1994 06:53:33 GMT

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tonyg@hdos.hac.com (Tony Gruszczak) writes:

> As of last year, one of the biggest differences between IDL and PV-WAVE was the  
> fact that you could not call IDL routines from within a C or Fortran application,  
> something which PV-WAVE allows you to do pretty easily. For instance, if are  
> writing an application in Fortran and have a data array you wish to plot, you can  
> just pass it to PV-WAVE in memory and use one of its plotting routines. With IDL,  
> you would have to store the array to disk, then invoke IDL to read the data and  
> plot it. Perhaps RSI has added such features to IDL recently.

IDL has something called Remote Procedure Calls (RPC) which allows

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IDL to work as a server for other C programs. I have only used this a couple of times, but as far as I can recall, there was a function called 'sendcmd', or something like that. This command would allow C programs to communicate with IDL. So I guess it would be possible to write a complete IDL program in C.

Why anyone should want do this is, I don't know. But the point is that you CAN call IDL routines from C, and that this feature has been around for atleast one year.

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Regards,

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