
Subject: Mapping with IDL

Posted by [tcurrie](#) on Thu, 20 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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d> I have a database system which stores GIS information.
d> In response to queries, such as find all the polygons
d> within 100 miles of this polygon, it returns the
d> coordinates for the boundaries of the geographic objects
d> which meet the search criteria. I need to convert these
d> coordinates into a map and then into a GIF file. I was
d> thinking of doing this with IDL. I would like to know if
d> any one thinks this is a good or bad idea.

I did similar work to this for the weather service about 3
years ago using PV-WAVE. I still have the code somewhere and
am just now considering getting back into Wave development.
I did about 35 cartographic projections selectable by
rectangle or by center and domain. It worked rather well
once I got it to full parallelism, that is I never use
looping constructs.

d> I believe that IDL can do this but am a little nervous
d> because all the IDL mapping examples I see are of very
d> large areas, and not of small areas like counties or
d> states, which are more likely to be what I need to create
d> maps for.

I did areas as small as "Omaha and surrounding areas",
although the data were rather sparse and sometimes gave blank
screens as a result.

Is there a demand for this? Did Wave never ship a decent
carto package (they assured me in 1992 that it was 'any day
now').

tc
