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Subject: iTool Example

Posted by [p.sommer](#) on Mon, 13 Dec 2004 17:41:14 GMT

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Group,

In a recent thread, there was some discussion about how I used the iTool framework to build a data acquisition (DAQ) client. I was expressing some positive experiences having used the iTools for this project which was challenged by some. At the time, I offered to reform the example so that the user community could take a look at a fully featured, user defined iTool. It is now available for anyone interested:

<http://www.rsinc.com/codebank/search.asp?search=category&product=IDL&catid=43>

Now, if I may put my sales hat on, in addition to providing an excellent platform for rapid application development, I also made some mention about making sure the problem fit the tool which was also challenged. In short, what I meant by that statement was to try using an existing iTool [iPlot, iContour, iSurface, iVolume, iImage or iMap] on similar data that one needs to support to make sure the framework can support it. For example, since the iTools are based on IDL's Object Graphics, much of the data needs to reside in physical memory to maintain interactivity. Without going into too much detail, I think you power users know what I mean.

Someone also asked for more detail for why one would want to start using the iTool framework at all for building new tools. My rational is that the framework takes care of a lot of important details like setting up views, operators, manipulators, file I/O, property sheets, annotation, zoom control, undo/redo buffer and now with 6.1, macro recording. It's just very nice to have all this taken care of so I can focus on the elements that make the tool truly unique as apposed to spending hours and hours building up the basic functionality end users have come to expect from a nice piece of software. Okay...enough said. Go easy on me as I am learning right along with you. Just hope the example helps someone, somewhere.

-Paul

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