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Subject: Re: ION Question

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Wed, 06 Apr 2005 17:11:05 GMT

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- > I've been asked to investigate the possibility of embedding
- > an IDL application into a web page. Obviously ION is the only
- > possibility. But when I went to the RSI web page for information
- > and tried the ION example I was, uh, less than impressed.

Same here. Were you looking at ION Script or ION Java? I was less than impressed with ION Script because of how limited it is, but I understand that ION Script is for those who don't want to get their hands dirty. I was less than impressed with ION Java because of overall performance and that everything was forced to be embedded in a Java applet.

- > I know slick example programs are not really RSI's thing,
- > but is that what I can expect with ION? Has anyone used
- > it in a realistic way? My customer would like a fair amount
- > of interactivity and at the moment I'm feeling fairly pessimistic.

It depends on what you're trying to do with it. How "interactive" do you need this to be? Which example program of RSI's were you looking at? The simpler the view, the faster the program will be. If you want whiz-bang rotating 3-D graphics with coyotes dancing across the screen, it will really slow down for most people. The problem is that everything is within a Java applet. The applet must be downloaded to the client computer and then run on the client, not on the server. Having a big, beefy server does not help you.

We played around with ION some, but we just found it too hairy to work with. We opted for doing our own web server programming and dynamically call IDL when necessary to make a plot, file or movie and serve that back to the end user. You don't have true interactivity in this case, but you have enough to take a user's selections and generate something on the fly based on that input.

-Mike

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