tina wrote:

>> I also would send you a
>> link to the applications I built using ION script but they are currently
>> offline and I don't know if or when they will be back.
>> I can give you a verbal rundown of one to give you an idea of what is
>> possible with ION script:
>> The user would launch the application by clicking a link in their
>> browser. The app presented two windows, one for control and one for
>> display. In the control window there was a web form which would allow
>> the user to specify a number of parameters and they could select how
>> they wanted the results displayed: as an jpg image of the 3d model or
>> as a VRML model.
>
> I can understand the presentation by browser ION examples, but I
> haven't found some examples displayed VRML model.

Yes, my application is the only one I know of that output VRML models.
I'm pretty sure others are out there, I seem to remember a post
regarding this a while ago, but they are uncommon.

>> If they selected VRML model (and they had a VRML
>> client installed), the application would send the VRML file and their
>> browser would open the client in the display window and they could then
>> manipulate the model (rotate, pan, zoom, etc.).
>
> In this step, is VRML model created as a changeless file on sever-side?
> If the model is change, we have to modify this model?
> If the application will send the new model files when the client
> inquiry?

Exactly, the user would select the different parameters, press a button
and the application would send a static VRML model. If the user wanted
to see the output from a different combination of parameters then they
would have to make changes, click the button, and another VRML model
would be delivered.

The application runs this way for two reasons, mainly that ION script is
stateless but even with some fancy coding with the XMLHTTP object (AJAX)
to create a sort of stateful application IDLgrVRML only creates static
VRML objects so you would still need to keep sending the entire VRML
model each time it was changed.

>> This isn't a limitation of ION, but of the VRML standard.
>
> Can ION creat views or models like in IDE if I don't use VRML model?
> Can ION Java creat a 3D manipulative interface on web?

I have only used ION script so I can't really say what you can do with
ION but yes, in ION script you create models and views exactly as you do
in IDL. You use the *same* IDL code. The difference is that in ION
script the output is rendered in one of 3 ways, as an image, as text, or
as data (for example, VRML).

ION Java could probably be used to create and manipulate 3d objects via
a java application but it would be a lot of work.   This is a guess, but
  I would think that ION would get you maybe 25% of the way there and
the rest would be custom java code.

Again, I would suggest looking into options using the IDL VM. You could
write a client application that uses TCP/IP and XML/SOAP to communicate
with one of your servers which would deliver your data. This
application would be fully interactive and (depending on the client
hardware) provide a flexible and powerful platform for displaying 3d
content. The downside is that users would have to download the IDL VM
as well as your application. Depending on your audience this may or may
not be feasible.

good luck!

-Rick