
Subject: Re: GIS: IDL vs. PV~WAVE

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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> We are very seriously considering a purchase of IDL. The primary
> function of this package would be for GIS (Geographic Information),
> such as mapping and displaying and manipulating our data.

I don't know if IDL or PVWave will satisfy your needs.
They both have routines built in to do mapping and imaging,
but you will definitely have to spend some time learning
the language syntax, and then write some code to do the
specific tasks you require. IDL and PVWave are not GUI
plug-and-play packages. Think of them more as enhanced
high-level languages with built-in graphics and mathematical
analysis routines. (Don't get me wrong, I like IDL).

For a package which is more along the lines of a plug-and-play
GUI application, you could try the following widely used packages:

(1) ENVI (from the company that developed IDL)
Research Systems Inc.
2995 Wilderness Place
Boulder CO 80301
Phone: (303) 786-9900
Fax: (303) 786-9909
http://sslabs.colorado.edu:2222/projects/IDL/idl_ssl_home.htm I

(2) EASI/PACE
PCI
50 West Wilmot St.
Richmond Hill, Ontario
Canada, L4B 1M5
Phone: (905) 764-0614
Fax: (905) 764-9604
Email: sales@pci.on.ca
<http://www.pci.on.ca>

(3) ER-Mapper
Americas Region Office
Earth Resource Mapping
4370 La Jolla Village Dr.
Suite 900
San Diego CA 92122
Phone: (619) 558-4709
Fax: (619) 558-2657
<ftp://earth.eps.pitt.edu/Earth.html>

I do not have experience with any of these packages, but I know lots of people use them. You should be able to get evaluation versions on CD-ROM to try them out for a while. Also, if you let each of the companies know that they are competing against each other, you **might** be able to get a price break. Also check to see if they have an educational discount.

Cheers,
Liam.
