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Subject: Re: GUI in IDL or PV-WAVE

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 25 Nov 2009 15:12:05 GMT

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Vroom Buddy writes:

- > My company want to develop a new Windows application to process
- > hydrographic survey data and amongst many other products, we are
- > considering IDL and PV-WAVE. Although they both seem to have very good
- > built-in functions for data analysis and visualization and a 4GL
- > interface to allow expert users to customise their use of the final
- > processing software, I get the impression that developing a good
- > graphical user interface will be a major chore. A few questions for
- > you;
- >
- > 1. Is it correct that neither IDL nor PV-WAVE have a GUI builder and
- > that it all has to be manually coded?

Yes, but this is not particularly hard and has the unambiguous benefit of the programmer actually understanding the code he or she has written. :-)

- > 2. I've seen PV-WAVE in action on a Windows XP PC but it looked like
- > an old-fashioned Motif application with no way of resizing the Window.
- > Is this still the case in the latest version? What about IDL, does it
- > look pretty similar?

I don't know about PV-WAVE, but you will not be disappointed in the way things look if you build a Windows application in IDL. It will look exactly like any other Windows application you have on your machine. (A UNIX application is another story, entirely.)

- > 3. Is there a recommended way of getting a modern Windows GUI with IDL
- > or PV-WAVE doing the heavy work in the background?

You're not a programmer, are you? ;-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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