Subject: Re: Interesting article in Nature
Posted by Mark Piper on Thu, 31 Jan 2013 15:15:17 GMT

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On Wednesday, January 30, 2013 4:24:09 PM UTC-7, Paulo Penteado wrote:
> It is not everyday that choosing IDL over other languages gets
>
> discussed in Nature:
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>
> "The algorithms to be incorporated were varied, and included codes for
>
> estimating snow coverage, grain size and absorption of solar radiation
>
> by dust and black carbon. They had been written in IDL, a specialized
>
> programming language used by many researchers. Geographers, remote
>
> sensing experts and software programmers contributed.
>
> Most computer scientists would assume that such a system would take
>
> years, not weeks, to develop. The algorithms would presumably have to
>
> be rewritten in a standard language such as C++, Java or Python, or
>
> one that could run on a fast computer system or infrastructure, such
>
> as Google's MapReduce model.
>
> But, in my experience, there is no need to rewrite scientific
>
> algorithms for bigdata systems. Rewriting only increases the barriers
>
> to communication between scientists and computer engineers. Rewriting
>
> can also introduce costly errors."
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> From
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>
>
> http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/493473a

Thank you, Paulo, for linking to this article. I love to post articles such as this internally at VIS to

try to help people understand how and why IDL is important to us who use it.

mp