
Subject: Re: IDL vs. PV-WAVE

Posted by [sritcey](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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William Connolley wrote:

- > 2. Widgets seem to be particularly complex, but you probably don't
- > need them.

David Fanning wrote:

- > Now hold on there just a minute, William!<snip>...
- > When they are shown how easy it really is, they often start
- > taking the view that widget programs are essential to their research
- > and they don't know how they worked without them.

Jonathan Rogness (rogness@NO.sg1.SPAM.cr.usgs.gov) wrote:

: I'd be interested in hearing some of these people speak up, just because
: I'm curious about how exactly they incorporate widgets into their
: research. Personally, I write about 5-10 programs a day, either in IDL
: or C, and only one of them (about a year ago) has ever been a widget
: application.

[snip]

: Perhaps it just depends on the type of research

Perhaps. Most of what I write isn't widget based either, in the sense that the stuff that takes thought and time is small, modular routines which I then call from

1. Wave command line
2. Wave scripts
3. Widget interface

I use [1] when I'm developing an analysis concept, [2] to process a large mass of data when I'm sure I'm doing the right thing, and [3] to explore a new data set when I've previously chosen which tools to use but want to quickly apply one, then the other, in an unpredictable way.

Although the learning curve is steep (at least the Wave manuals have lots of examples), widgets are the quickest way to jump easily from one data set to another and from one analysis mode to another. I find it preferable to repeatedly typing command line variations as one explores. I suppose it really is useless if there is not some degree of sameness to your analysis from data set to data set or from day to day.

Sorry if this is a bit rambling, but I for one find widget programs useful for personal use in addition to supplying them to nonprogrammers.
