

---

Subject: Re: idl vs. pv-wave

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 22 Jul 1997 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

William B. Gunter writes:

- > My boss wants a comparison between idl and pv-wave. I know they are
- > similar, but what are the main differences between them? Can an idl
- > program run under pv-wave with no, minimal or many modifications? What
- > are the advantages/disadvantages?

The main differences between IDL and PV-Wave are all the good enhancements that have been added to each of them over the past 4-5 years since they diverged as products. This will include almost all of the good math routines, map projects, ability to add graphical user interfaces, etc, etc, etc.

There is virtually no chance these days that an IDL program will run unmodified in PV-Wave and visa versa unless it is a very simple program, indeed.

At the moment IDL seems more advanced in writing object-oriented programs, which I think have the chance (if anyone can learn to write them) of revolutionizing the art of IDL programming as much as widgets did several years ago. PV-Wave, on the other hand, seems to be paying a whole lot more attention to JAVA and getting applications to work on the network.

I think they are both excellent programs with great features.

Many people I know who have been in your shoes have ended up tossing a coin, or at least that's how it appeared to me. My favorite reason for choosing PV-Wave, back in the days when the two products were still identical, was that PV-Wave's "syntax was easier to use". Sigh...

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Customizable IDL Programming Courses

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)

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

IDL 5 Reports: <http://www.dfanning.com/documents/anomaly5.html>

---