
Subject: IDL and WAVE: # and types of users?

Posted by [Mitchell R Grunes](#) on Sat, 21 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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I wish to estimate how many users there are for IDL and PV-WAVE.

Anyone have any idea? In terms of who has more, and in actual #'s? Also: am I right that IDL users mostly fall into the remote sensing community, while PV-WAVE users are mostly financial business? Or is that nonsense?

(I know I am a bit tired of trying to make my software work with both.)

My own best guess is that each has only a few thousand at the very most. But that would make it hard for them to make a living--unless they make most of their income from software subscriptions, technical help, training and consulting.

Subject: Re: IDL and WAVE: # and types of users?

Posted by [kluegel](#) on Sun, 22 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <MPG.1229d06edc4672939898af@news.frii.com>, davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:

- > If you are thinking about writing a book, or trying
- > to make a living as a consultant, and you really want
- > to ask, Is it possible to do this given the IDL/PV-Wave
- > market size? Then I would say, yes, if you are clever,
- > do quality work, have a burning desire to work night
- > and day, can learn the marketing/sales/accounting/public
- > relations skills it requires to be successful, and
- > have some money saved up (or an employed significant
- > other) so you can eat while you are getting things
- > going. After a year or two of happy clients, it's a
- > cinch. :-)

As David writes this from his notebook in the Bahamas... :)

-- Tom

Sent via Deja.com <http://www.deja.com/>

Share what you know. Learn what you don't.

Subject: Re: IDL and WAVE: # and types of users?
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 22 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Joseph B. Gurman (gurman@gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

> I would estimate the number of
> IDL users at some tens of thousands.
>
> Of course, "users" is a broad term, including the clueless using code
> developed by others.

I agree. In my own mind, I think 25,000 - 30,000 IDL users.
Nearly as many PV-Wave users, probably. But an appallingly
high percentage are probably what Joe (not me) called the
"clueless". :-)

Even the non-clueless are using an amazingly small
percentage of IDL functionality.

If you are thinking about writing a book, or trying
to make a living as a consultant, and you really want
to ask, Is it possible to do this given the IDL/PV-Wave
market size? Then I would say, yes, if you are clever,
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cinch. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: IDL and WAVE: # and types of users?
Posted by [gurman](#) on Sun, 22 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <37BEB8A6.BC92B5D1@sprynet.com>, Mitch Grunes
<grunesm@sprynet.com> wrote:

I have no way of estimating what you really want, other than to note that we have IDL icenses numbered > 18000. (Does anyone know if these are always given out serially? Each new license we've gotten has been higher numbered than the previous one, and when we buy multiple licenses at a time, they are consecutively numbered.) Admittedly, some licenses have probably lapsed, but quite a few others out there are for servers with multiple seats. If I had to hazard a guess, I would estimate the number of IDL users at some tens of thousands.

Of course, "users" is a broad term, including the cluesless using code developed by others.

My \$0.02,

Joe Gurman

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- > subscriptions, technical help, training and consulting.

--

Joseph B. Gurman / NASA Goddard Space Flight Center / Solar Physics Branch /
Greenbelt MD 20771 / work: gurman@gsfc.nasa.gov /other: gurman@ari.net

Government employees are still not allowed to hold opinions while at work,
so any opinions expressed herein must be someone else's.

Subject: Re: IDL and WAVE: # and types of users?
Posted by [mdwillia](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Mitch Grunes <grunesm@sprynet.com> writes:

- > I wish to estimate how many users there are for IDL and PV-WAVE.
- > Anyone have any idea? In terms of who has more, and in
- > actual #'s? Also: am I right that IDL users mostly fall
- > into the remote sensing community, while PV-WAVE users are
- > mostly financial business? Or is that nonsense?

You are on the right track. IDL is much more prevalent in the academic/remote sensing/astronomy communities than is PV-WAVE, at least according to my perception of the types of people that post here, where most of the topics are related to IDL.

In having followed the WAVE mailing list, it would seem that WAVE is more prevalent in the aerospace/manufacturing/test engineering environments than is IDL, at least as indicated by the types that post to the mailing list.

Don't know how accurate those perceptions may be; the sample populace of both groups isn't necessarily indicative of the user communities at large.

--MDG
CU
