
Subject: Re: What do you think of VIP?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Grant W. Petty (gpetty@rain.atms.purdue.edu) writes:

- > I recently received some promotional information from RSI concerning
- > something they call VIP. It's supposed to be a new visual programming
- > interface that allows you string IDL modules together by linking them
- > together on your computer screen rather than writing text programs
- > containing IDL statements. I got a demo CD for VIP but haven't yet
- > had the time to install it on my HP workstation.

I would definitely take the time to install it
and see what you think.

- > Is it flexible enough to do everything that one might
- > normally attempt in a traditional IDL program?

It is flexible enough to do *many* of the things
one might attempt in a traditional IDL program.
It lacks a few of the more flexible programming
features (e.g., loops) that you might expect a first
release to lack. I hear these things are coming.

- > Does the visual interface really speed up the programming
- > process that much compared to typing an equivalent set of IDL commands
- > (assuming one is already fairly comfortable with the IDL syntax)?

I would say it can speed things up significantly, *especially*
if you are a lousy typist (say like 90% of the people who
take my programming classes :-). It certainly cuts down
on making and fixing typos. :^)

- > In short, is it worth the money?

I honestly don't know how much it costs. But I do know
some people who have snatched up the promotional price,
because together with an IDL license it cost a lot less
than a single IDL license. Hard to go wrong there! :-)

Cheers,

David

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