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Subject: IDL & IBM Visualization Data Explorer  
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## IBM AND RESEARCH SYSTEMS LAUNCH JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC VISUALIZATION AND ANALYSIS SOFTWARE

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, N.Y., September 20 . . . IBM and Research Systems, Inc. will jointly develop an interface between IDL\*(Interactive Data Language) and IBM's Visualization Data Explorer. The IDL/Data Explorer module will allow scientists and engineers to seamlessly and interactively tap the potential of both powerful scientific computing packages on their desktops. IDL will appear as another "building block" available for use in a Data Explorer visual or scripting language program.

"The IDL/Data Explorer link is the ultimate Data Explorer filter module," said Troy Cobb, director of software development for Research Systems. "It will bring Data Explorer users all of IDL's powerful data analysis, graphics and imaging capabilities, as well as its interactive programming language and built-in GUI toolkit."

Users will be able to run IDL in a special mode that allows an IDL session to be used as a Data Explorer subroutine or co-routine. The module will be used to run any IDL program and will accept data from Data Explorer and pass processed data back to Data Explorer. It will accept standard Data Explorer field types of any dimensionality (up to eight dimensions), and any vector length for both input and output.

IDL users will be able to implement their current programs within Data Explorer, and enhance them with interactive, 3-D visualization techniques and a comprehensive data model for simultaneously handling multiple data sources. Data Explorer users will be able to incorporate additional quantitative analysis and display techniques into their programs. Scientists and engineers will be able to capitalize on the advantages of both software packages to aid in the study of large volumes of complex observational and simulation data.

"We are looking forward to linking IDL with Data Explorer," said Kevin P. McAuliffe, program manager of visualization software, IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, N.Y. "Their complementary capabilities will provide unprecedented power to study complex data."

Thought you might be interested in this announcement. If you would like to know more, I would be glad to answer questions you might have.

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