
Subject: Re: java vs. IDL

Posted by [reardonb](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Thanks. I was just looking for assurance that my IDL work was not in vain.

-Brian

In article <3A02EC29.66766DFD@noaa.gov>,

"Pavel A. Romashkin" <pavel.romashkin@noaa.gov> wrote:

> Wouldn't you think that the time test has been passed by IDL? It has its

> own clientele that seems to be growing, not shrinking.

> Besides, there is nothing in IDL or Java that can't be implemented in C,

> Perl or Fortran for that matter. Speculation of this sort looks to me

> like, would VW or Saab be able to hold its own in Toyota, GM and Ford

> world. There are so many users with all sorts of tastes out there that

> the answer is yes, I think.

> Cheers,

> Pavel

>

> reardonb@my-deja.com wrote:

>>

>> Lately I have been learning java to address a number of modeling issues

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>> niche?

>> Thanks.

>> Brian Reardon

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>> Before you buy.

>

Subject: Re: java vs. IDL

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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"Why I use IDL" by Paul

```
IDL> myx=fltarr(100)
IDL> myy=fltarr(100)
IDL> openr,1,'mydata.binary'
IDL> readu,1,myx,myy
IDL> close,1
IDL> print, myx[0]
1.04215e-26
```

[paul: "Huh?"]

```
IDL> print, swap_endian(myx[0])
235.305
```

[paul: "That's better"]

```
IDL> plot, myx, myy
```

[paul: that was easy. look at my pretty data]

Generally, viewing long strings of numbers makes my eyeballs glaze over. The ability to read and view my data in 30seconds makes me happy. :o)

paulv

--

Paul van Delst Ph: (301) 763-8000 x7274
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Fax: (301) 763-8545
Rm.207, 5200 Auth Rd. Email: pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov
Camp Springs MD 20746

Subject: Re: java vs. IDL

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Subject: Re: java vs. IDL

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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reardonb@my-deja.com wrote:

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Please look at deja.com for recent threads on similar topics. There has been ample discussion about this (although not specifically wrt Java). In short: there are plenty of programs around that do some of the things that IDL can do - some things better, some things worse, some things faster, some things slower - but you have a very hard time finding anything that does everything that IDL does at least as well.

Martin

--

```

[[ Dr. Martin Schultz  Max-Planck-Institut fuer Meteorologie  [[
[[          Bundesstr. 55, 20146 Hamburg          [[
[[          phone: +49 40 41173-308          [[
[[          fax:  +49 40 41173-298          [[
[[ martin.schultz@dkrz.de          [[
[[          [[          [[          [[          [[          [[

```

Subject: Re: java vs. IDL

Posted by [vern.stark](#) on Tue, 07 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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I have over 15 years of IDL experience and have also done a limited amount of Java over the past few years. IDL has an excellent base of software you can tap into to do math, plotting, image manipulation, etc. It's also easy to code GUIs once you get the hang of it. In IDL, I can sit down with a text file full of data and have it plotted in a matter of minutes. The last time I tried to do that in Java, I found the file I/O

very limited. Just reading in and parsing the data from the text file was a pain.

We've also found IDL excellent for software prototyping. In a few months we put together a GUI application that does a lot of file I/O, image manipulation, and handling of user input via GUIs. It started out as roughly 10,000 lines of code and we've been adding to it and tweaking it and it's grown to roughly 20,000 lines of code. We've toyed with the idea of porting this GUI application to Java, but have stayed with IDL since it has all the functionality we need and has served us very well so far in the development of this application. The IDL library really facilitates image manipulation, equation solving, plotting, etc. It would probably take a lot more than 20,000 lines of Java code to have the same functionality.

In short, the functionality of IDL allows one to quickly analyze and visualize data or do software prototyping. We feel we can get our data analysis done and our software prototypes up and running faster in IDL than we could in Java. If your goal is data analysis or software prototyping, IDL is hard to beat. If your goal is to have a nice piece of object oriented code, you might choose Java. At the risk of stereotyping, I'd sum it up by suggesting that if you're a data analyst you'll probably prefer IDL and if you're a computer scientist you may prefer Java.

Vern

<reardonb@my-deja.com> wrote in message news:8tuodt\$g0m\$1@nnrp1.deja.com...

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