
Subject: Re: What is IDL.

Posted by [toma](#) on Wed, 05 Feb 1992 16:09:01 GMT

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> In article <9286@borg.cs.unc.edu> kahn@physics.unc.edu (Dan Kahn) writes:
>> I've seen pvwave, but what is IDL? Nobody I know seems to have heard of
>> it. How would I go about getting it?

To the previous post about where to get it, I would add:

It is my understanding the IDL and PV-WAVE are exactly the same, except

(1) PV-WAVE has much more application-specific routines, for example
for image processing;

(2) PV-WAVE costs a lot more.

The reason behind the differences is mainly (I am told) whereas PV-WAVE
has 80-100 employees, IDL has only 3.

Note however that there is reputed to be strong support among the
community of IDL users for each other (which unfortunately does
not seem to be reflected here, at least in the couple of weeks

I have been subscribed to this newsgroup -- I suspect the fact that at
least until recently IDL was heavily used by Vax people to be a possible
reason for this).

I have used both packages. As the group I work for wants to write
very specific applications, IDL is sufficient for our needs.

--

Tom Atwater

Subject: Re: What is IDL.

Posted by [ychu](#) on Thu, 06 Feb 1992 05:30:09 GMT

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Dan:

Based on my understanding, IDL and pv-wave is same scientific visualization software sold under
two different companies. The only difference is IDL is MUCH
CHEAPER than pv-wave. You can get a 7 minutes demo IDL program via internet.
I'll try to find the internet address if you need.

Philip Chu

Dep. of Civil Eng.

The Ohio State University

Subject: Re: What is IDL.

Posted by [alans](#) on Thu, 06 Feb 1992 15:01:02 GMT

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> Based on my understanding, IDL and pv-wave is same scientific visualization
> software sold under two different companies. The only difference is IDL is MUCH
> CHEAPER than pv-wave.

While the above statement is true, there are other differences between the two products, which have been discussed at length in this forum.

Seems to me there should be a FAQ for this group, to answer at least that single question (perhaps RSI and PV could *each* provide a description of the differences, so no flame wars erupt here ;-)

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> Philip Chu
> Dep. of Civil Eng.
> The Ohio State University

The address is boulder.colorado.edu (128.138.240.1). The trial versions for the various architectures are in the /pub/idl subdirectory, in compressed tar form. (Another FAQ answer, I should think.)

And no, I'm *not* volunteering to maintain the FAQ list ;-)

--

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