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Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 23 Aug 2006 17:27:08 GMT  
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Haje Korth writes:

- > Does anyone have the scoop on the newest comment on the ITTVIS web site
- > about IMSL coming to IDL? Entire library or selected functions? Which
- > OS? What's the Interface (call external, DLM, etc.)? Free for IDL
- > customers under maintenance or another \$1000 addon? Anything else you
- > can think of?

Wow. Talk about deja vu all over again! Next thing you know, David Stern will be back looking into the contouring algorithm. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. (Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Wed, 23 Aug 2006 18:43:13 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Deja vu? Am I missing something here???

H.

David Fanning wrote:

- > Haje Korth writes:
- >
- >> Does anyone have the scoop on the newest comment on the ITTVIS web site
- >> about IMSL coming to IDL? Entire library or selected functions? Which
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- >> can think of?
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Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 23 Aug 2006 19:28:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Haje Korth writes:

> Deja vu? Am I missing something here???

Guess you're too young to have heard about this, Haje.  
Here, come sit on my knee, and ol' Gramps will tell  
you a story.

Years and years ago, well before you were born probably,  
I had a mystical experience. I had quit my job--again--and  
had given my wife some cock and bull story about wanting  
to "find myself" or "follow my bliss" or whatever it was  
that was fashionable in those days. Basically, I was more  
or less unhappy with everything I had ever done and was  
looking for something more meaningful to do.

I had this strong urge to call one of my friends at RSI  
and ask if they had ever thought of offering IDL training  
classes to their customers.

"No, hell no. Our customers don't need training classes,"  
my friend said. "But you better get your ass down here tomorrow  
because we are talking to someone about a deal and you might  
be interested in it."

I ran down there in the morning. They were talking to IMSL  
about creating a product called IDL-IMSL. The folks were from  
Houston and didn't know anything at all about IDL. The deal was  
done that morning, and the folks asked me to fly down to Houston  
two days later with a proposal for creating an IDL-IMSL training

course.

I entered the room with a single sheet of paper and a figure on it I had spent the whole flight down to Houston regretting. I was asking for about twice as much money as I had ever made in my life.

The meeting started, and it wasn't long before it was pretty clear that there was--at that time anyway--about one person in the world who could do the job they wanted done, and he was sitting across from the suits with a shit-eating grin on his face. I slid that proposal across the desk to the suits, and they didn't even flinch.

The rest, as they say, is history. I'll show you the IDL-IMSL video sometime. I still have it around here somewhere. I've been waiting all these years just to show to the grandkids :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Sepore ma de ni thui. (Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Wed, 23 Aug 2006 20:05:02 GMT

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In article <MPG.1f565a3ed6c58ad9989c94@news.frii.com>, David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:

> The rest, as they say, is history. I'll show you the IDL-IMSL  
> video sometime. I still have it around here somewhere. I've been  
> waiting all these years just to show to the grandkids :-)

What is doubly odd is that, way back during the neolithic computing era, IMSL turned into or was acquired by Visual Numerics (I don't remember all the details), which also bought the IDL source code and relabeled it PV-WAVE:

<http://vni.com/products/wave/pvwave/overview.html>

If I recall correctly, PV-WAVE's original differentiation from IDL was that it

included IMSL. Over time PV-WAVE and IDL have diverged in many specifics.

Ken Bowman

---

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Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL

Posted by [news.verizon.net](http://news.verizon.net) on Wed, 23 Aug 2006 20:11:00 GMT

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Haje Korth wrote:

- > Hi,
- > Does anyone have the scoop on the newest comment on the ITTVIS web site
- > about IMSL coming to IDL? Entire library or selected functions? Which
- > OS? What's the Interface (call external, DLM, etc.)? Free for IDL
- > customers under maintenance or another \$1000 addon? Anything else you
- > can think of?

The repeated use of the word "premium" on the ITTVIS website makes me suspect that this will be an additional cost. The addition of IMSL is less needed than it once was, now that there are ~20 LAPACK routines within IDL, and public domain numerical libraries (e.g. NETLIB) that can be linked to IDL are more easily accessible. But the well-documented integration of IMSL into IDL would ease the use of IDL for numerical calculations.

But I wonder more about the partnership of IDL with IMSL. I believe that IMSL is licensed by Visual Numerics, the company which also licenses PV-WAVE. One of the old selling points of PV-WAVE vs. IDL has been the availability of the IMSL libraries within PV-WAVE.

Does this partnership signal a future (re)-merger of IDL and PV-WAVE?

--Wayne

---

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Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL

Posted by [news.qwest.net](http://news.qwest.net) on Wed, 23 Aug 2006 20:45:17 GMT

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"David Fanning" <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote in message  
news:MPG.1f565a3ed6c58ad9989c94@news.frii.com...

- > Guess you're too young to have heard about this, Haje.
- > Here, come sit on my knee, and ol' Gramps will tell
- > you a story.

I must be the most immature person here, but when I read this message, I stopped immediately prior to "and bull story about wanting

to "find myself" or "follow my bliss" or whatever it was".

I am embarrassed to say, but I cannot stop laughing, and I may have to leave work early today.

:O

---

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 23 Aug 2006 20:53:38 GMT  
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R.G. Stockwell writes:

> I must be the most immature person here, but when I read  
> this message, I stopped immediately prior to "and bull story about wanting  
> to "find myself" or "follow my bliss" or whatever it was".  
>  
> I am embarrassed to say, but I cannot stop laughing, and I  
> may have to leave work early today.

I warned you it was mystical. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Sepore ma de ni thui. (Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Thu, 24 Aug 2006 05:16:23 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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David Fanning wrote:

> R.G. Stockwell writes:  
>  
>> I must be the most immature person here, but when I read  
>> this message, I stopped immediately prior to "and bull story about wanting  
>> to "find myself" or "follow my bliss" or whatever it was".  
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>> I am embarrassed to say, but I cannot stop laughing, and I

>> may have to leave work early today.  
>  
> I warned you it was mystical. :-)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David

Yep, I just about fell off my chair too! I guess now we know how old David's elder son is... ;-)

Does Carol F. read this Newsgroup?

Andrew

---

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 24 Aug 2006 12:55:49 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Andrew Cool writes:

> Yep, I just about fell off my chair too! I guess now we know how old  
> David's elder son is... ;-)

You guys have got to get your mind out of the gutter!

> Does Carol F. read this Newsgroup?

She has WAY too much class to read something like this newsgroup. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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---

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Fri, 25 Aug 2006 12:38:32 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Ol'Gramps,  
thanks for the anecdote from the life of an IDL professional. :-)  
Although I have been using IDL from the very beginning of it's history,  
I cared little back then about the politics behind the product. I  
appreciate the insight.

Haje

David Fanning wrote:

> Haje Korth writes:

>

>> Deja vu? Am I missing something here???

>

> Guess you're too young to have heard about this, Haje.

> Here, come sit on my knee, and ol' Gramps will tell

> you a story.

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> Years and years ago, well before you were born probably,

> I had a mystical experience. I had quit my job--again--and

> had given my wife some cock and bull story about wanting

> to "find myself" or "follow my bliss" or whatever it was

> that was fashionable in those days. Basically, I was more

> or less unhappy with everything I had ever done and was

> looking for something more meaningful to do.

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> I had this strong urge to call one of my friends at RSI

> and ask if they had ever thought of offering IDL training

> classes to their customers.

>

> "No, hell no. Our customers don't need training classes,"

> my friend said. "But you better get your ass down here tomorrow

> because we are talking to someone about a deal and you might

> be interested in it."

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> I ran down there in the morning. They were talking to IMSL

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> I was asking for about twice as much money as I had ever made

> in my life.

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> The meeting started, and it wasn't long before it was pretty

> clear that there was--at that time anyway--about one person  
> in the world who could do the job they wanted done, and he was  
> sitting across from the suits with a shit-eating grin on his  
> face. I slid that proposal across the desk to the suits, and  
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Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Fri, 25 Aug 2006 12:42:46 GMT  
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Wayne,  
I too got the feeling that we get to fork out if we want to use this  
analyst product. Regarding the ITTVIS/VNI relationship, I have been  
wondering about this too. No clue what's going on...

Haje

Wayne Landsman wrote:

> Haje Korth wrote:  
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>> Does anyone have the scoop on the newest comment on the ITTVIS web site  
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> Does this partnership signal a future (re)-merger of IDL and PV-WAVE?  
> --Wayne

---

---

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Fri, 25 Aug 2006 12:46:03 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Yup, he is definitely a writer!!! :-)

R.G. Stockwell wrote:

> "David Fanning" <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote in message  
> news:MPG.1f565a3ed6c58ad9989c94@news.frii.com...  
>  
>> Guess you're too young to have heard about this, Haje.  
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---

---

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 30 Aug 2006 13:47:10 GMT  
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---

Haje Korth writes:

> I too got the feeling that we get to fork out if we want to use this  
> analyst product. Regarding the ITTVIS/VNI relationship, I have been  
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An article in my mailbox yesterday confirms that if I "act now" I can get the new IDL Analyst product for \$995. I had a look through the list of mathematical routines. I noticed enough overlap between the math routines already in IDL and the new routines to make me VERY glad I'm not an IDL salesperson.

"So, are these math routines better than the old ones?"

"Uh, no. Well, maybe, in some cases."

"Do you mean that the old ones aren't accurate."

"No, no. I don't mean that. I just mean that, you know, maybe you would like to use a different algorithm."

"Don't they give the same answers?"

"Well, usually."

etc.

To come up with \$995 the new routines have to either be better (whatever this means) or there has to be something there that you don't have now and really, really need.

If they are better, then why aren't they included in IDL!? Surely IDL can't be sold in the "ballpark" version and the "accurate" version. (Can you imagine the footnotes in the academic literature?)

If there is something new, \$995 may or may not be a fair price for it. Guess it depends on how badly it's needed.

I'm just saying, I'm sure as hell glad I'm not the one selling it!

Cheers,

David

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Sepore ma de ni thui. (Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Wed, 30 Aug 2006 16:39:03 GMT  
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---

I love that dialog, don't tell me that was a real conversations you had with ITTVIS. BTW: It not "for \$995", it's "for as little as \$995". That was the moment I spit my coffee all over my screen.

Well, I will give it a test shot and play with it to get an overview

David Fanning wrote:

> Haje Korth writes:

>

>> I too got the feeling that we get to fork out if we want to use this  
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Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 30 Aug 2006 16:56:53 GMT  
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---

Haje Korth writes:

> I love that dialog, don't tell me that was a real conversations you had  
> with ITTVIS.

All my dialogs (and half my answers) are fictitious.  
I thought you knew that by now. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
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(Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL  
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Wed, 30 Aug 2006 17:14:07 GMT  
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---

don't you ever have those weird dreams and you wake up sweating because  
it everything seemed so real??? :-)

David Fanning wrote:

> Haje Korth writes:

>

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> Sepore ma de ni thui.

> (Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

---

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 30 Aug 2006 17:19:47 GMT

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---

Haje Korth writes:

> don't you ever have those weird dreams and you wake up sweating because  
> it everything seemed so real??? :-)

Yeah, but I don't mention those to my wife. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Sepore ma de ni thui.

(Opata Indian saying, meaning "Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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---

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL

Posted by [Ben Panter](#) on Thu, 31 Aug 2006 13:59:02 GMT

---

Haje Korth wrote:

- > I love that dialog, don't tell me that was a real conversations you had
- > with ITTVIS. BTW: It not "for \$995", it's "for as little as \$995". That
- > was the moment I spit my coffee all over my screen.

I'm glad I wasn't the only one. I hadn't spotted David's post when I read the add-ons for the Premier edition, but I was imagining having a remarkably similar conversation...

Out of interest, when is IDL 7.0 due, and is there any gossip around about what might be included?

Ben

--

Ben Panter, Garching, Germany.

Email false, <http://www.benpanter.co.uk>

or you could try ben at ~~~~~~

---

---

Subject: Re: IMSL coming to IDL

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 18 Sep 2006 16:16:53 GMT

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---

David Fanning writes:

- > To come up with \$995 the new routines have to either be
- > better (whatever this means) or there has be be something
- > there that you don't have now and really, really need.

Just in case anyone was made uneasy about my fictitious conversation with an IDL salesperson concerning the IMSL addition, here are the facts as I now understand them.

IMSL adds approximately 75 new mathematical routines to the language, and of those that overlap with existing IDL math routines, many have additional parameters and keywords that allow you fine-tune your mathematical analysis in way that is not currently possible.

As I said before, the IMSL addition may well be worth the money. As with any new piece of software, you have to weigh your needs with how much time and energy (and money) it takes you to do without it.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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