Subject: Re: idl and pv-wave (GUI differences?)
Posted by Randy Zagar on Thu, 23 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

Achim Hein wrote:
>
> Matt Delaney wrote:
>>
>> What are the essemtial differences between RSI IDL and PV-WAVE? Are
>> programs written in the respective languages compatible?
>> --
>>
> They are compatible if you change some commands and the usage of somme
> commands - i.e. avg(average/WAVE) and total, the usage of shade_surf,
> call_external...
> But there is no problem to find and convert the different commands.

This thread relates to a problem I have... Our site has a license
for PV-Wave, but another site has written a rather extensive GUI-based
tool in IDL that we would like to be able to use...

Does anyone have an idea of how compatible the GUI code would be
between these two products ? If the GUI methods turn out to be too
different, then porting the code would be more expensive than buying
an IDL license...

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Subject: Re: idl and pv-wave (GUI differences?)
Posted by davidf on Fri, 24 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

Randy Zagar <zagar@udel.edu> writes:

> This thread relates to a problem I have... Our site has a license
> for PV-Wave, but another site has written a rather extensive GUI-based
> tool in IDL that we would like to be able to use...
>
> Does anyone have an idea of how compatible the GUI code would be

> between these two products ? If the GUI methods turn out to be too
> different, then porting the code would be more expensive than buying
> an IDL license...

In the old days, just after PVI purchased the IDL source code, the
two programs were exactly the same. As a newly hired RSI
employee, one of the joys of my life was stealing PV-Wave
customers from my former employers. It was pretty easy.
IDL was cheaper, PV-Wave code ran without modification
in IDL (and visa versa, unfortunately), and I knew more
of the technical details of IDL/PV-Wave than most of the
PV-Wave salespeople. Those salespeople and I used to
get together for lunch and swap lies about how much
damage we were doing to each other!

But that was over four years ago. These days it is very
difficult to even recognize that the two programs are the
same, unless you are writing very simple programs. Each
company has added features that their customers want.
And even though there is a lot of "keeping up with the
Joneses" associated with software development, what gets
added gets added in different ways.

The GUI tools are a good example. They are completely
UNcompatible to each other, although they perform
the same function in both programs. Depending upon
how well your GUI program was written (and most are not
written very well, unfortunately), you will have
quite a bit of work to do to covert one GUI program to
another. I can't image that it would ever be more
efficient than just purchasing an extra license.

Cheers!

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com