
Subject: Results -- IDL vs PV-Wave

Posted by [alan](#) on Thu, 25 Feb 1993 18:35:27 GMT

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Some time ago I posted asking for a comparison of IDL and PV-Wave. I didn't get much. Since I now have opinions on the subject, here's how I would have responded to my original posting:

IDL and PV-Wave are on the surface very similar, owing to their common ancestry. I've heard a lot of versions of exactly how the split occurred. Everyone seems to have their own story. And few really seem to know the differences currently, including sales people for both companies. In my (humble, of course) opinion:

1. PV-Wave widgets are simpler and easier to use.
2. PV-Wave image scrolling is nicer and cleaner, leading me to believe that they've spent some time in performance tuning.
3. PV-Wave sales people seem to care more about their product.
4. IDL crashed my window system twice but not reliably enough that I could give much information to RSI.
5. PV-Wave sent people out to show me how PV-Wave did the things I wanted it to do, in real time. I came up with problems; they showed me PV-Wave worked for that.
6. Visual Numerics (PV-Wave's current owner) is now connected with IMSL, raising questions for me about IDL's future in the math area.
7. PV-Wave's user base is slightly smaller, probably because of name recognition (the lack thereof compared to IDL).

We went with PV-Wave.

These statements may not reflect the experiences of the many (presumably happy) IDL users at JPL and Caltech.

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-- Alan # Mountain Dew and doughnuts...
..!ames!elroy!alan # because breakfast is the most important meal
alan@elroy.jpl.nasa.gov # of the day.
