
Subject: Re: IDL and PV-Wave comparison
Posted by [grunes](#) on Tue, 31 Aug 1993 19:08:49 GMT
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In article <1993Aug31.064123.696@ml.csiro.au> morgan@ml.csiro.au (Phil Morgan) writes:

> I am interested in purchasing IDL but recently became
> aware of PV-Wave. PV-WAVE is more expensive (about 2x) and I was
> just wondering
> 1. Is PV-WAVE a superset of IDL?
> 2. What are the differences, if any?
>
> FYI. Our site is all unix (mainly Suns) and we run f77,c and MATLAB.
> We require good data visualisation software and can't afford AVS
> which is about 5x the cost of IDL (per user).

1. No--it is a superset of old version of IDL.
2. For the most part they are the same. IDL has more functions to read and write images, and it has a map generator. I try to use that which is common to both, since I use each on different machines.

Also--you can update IDL for free. And you can get a trial copy of IDL (which only runs for 7 minutes at a time and can't output any files except postscript) by anonymous FTP of pub/idl/README from 128.138.240.1.

On the other hand PW Wave runs a little faster (I think) and it may have fixed a some bugs.

Mitchell R Grunes (grunes@imsy1.nrl.navy.mil)
Allied-Signal Technical Services
c/o Code 7230 Naval Research Lab

Subject: Re: IDL and PV-Wave comparison
Posted by [pat](#) on Tue, 31 Aug 1993 20:06:57 GMT
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Mitchell R Grunes (grunes@imsy1.nrl.navy.mil) wrote:
> Also--you can update IDL for free.

That's not the case anymore. Nowadays, you can purchase a maintenance contract which will buy you one year of updates. Unfortunately, our free ride was costing them too much money. Contact RSI for details.

--

"Now about those pictures..."

"I can explain! I was young! I needed the money!.."

patrick m. ryan
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Subject: Re: IDL and PV-Wave comparison
Posted by [offenbrg](#) on Tue, 31 Aug 1993 20:40:31 GMT
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grunes@imsy1.nrl.navy.mil (Mitchell R Grunes) writes:

> Also--you can update IDL for free.
No longer. Unless RSI has changed their minds over the last few weeks, they are now charging for upgrades starting with IDL v3.1.

Upgrades are free if you pay the maintenance fee, which is in the \$200+ per node per year range (much more if you have a VAX cluster).

Joel

--
offenbrg@fonude.gsfc.nasa.gov Joel D. Offenbergl Hughes STX/UIT Science Team
My job is to stare into space.

Don't hold anyone responsible for what I say. I'm on my coffee break.

Subject: Re: IDL and PV-Wave comparison
Posted by [jacobsen](#) on Wed, 01 Sep 1993 09:47:18 GMT
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In article <1993Aug31.064123.696@ml.csiro.au> morgan@ml.csiro.au (Phil Morgan) writes:

I am interested in purchasing IDL but recently became aware of PV-Wave. PV-WAVE is more expensive (about 2x) and I was just wondering

1. Is PV-WAVE a superset of IDL?
2. What are the differences, if any?

PV-Wave and IDL have a common root - the creators of IDL. PV started out marketing IDL as PV-WAVE, but then exercised an option to buy the source code rights and split off. Since then, both PV-WAVE and IDL have been enhanced, but in different directions. Both have X-windows-type widget stuff (but the details are different), and PV-WAVE has a widget-only version (point and click). I think PV-WAVE has the option of buying IMSL subroutines as well.

We use IDL on Vax, RS/6000 (unix), and PC (Windows). We can

pop routines around between all three with no hitches (well,
there are some kinks to linking in C code).

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