

# IDL 7.1



## Modern Platform for Data Visualization and Analysis

IDL is the preferred computing environment for understanding complex data through interactive visualization and analysis. IDL 7.0 introduced a new, simplified way to perform ad hoc visualization and application development with a modern, GUI-based approach called the IDL Workbench, based on the Eclipse platform. Now, IDL 7.1 is even easier to use. It expands on the modernization introduced in IDL 7.0 and features significant advancements to simplify data interaction whether you're an experienced, new, or occasional user.

### IDL Workbench Enhancements

The IDL Workbench you'll find in IDL 7.1 includes many new features that make IDL more intuitive to use. A convenient new Tool Palette gives you one-click access to a variety of visualization and analysis functions, and works with variables to create instant visualizations by dragging and dropping data. And, the new Visualize View added to the IDL Workbench shows you thumbnail previews of your work, making it easy to see and locate a specific visualization while working on multiple items at once.

### NEW Tool Palette

The new IDL Tool Palette is a significant addition to the IDL Workbench, improving usability by making data visualization and analysis a simple click away. The Tool Palette allows for instant visualization of variables or data files by allowing you to simply drag and drop a data set onto any one of seven pre-made tools located on the Tool Palette. In addition, you can easily create new tools for the Tool Palette, or extend and customize the existing tools by re-configuring "actions" – the set of parameters that defines how a tool can process your data.

### Plug-in to the IDL Community

The greater community of IDL and Eclipse users can now conveniently share development components, commonly known as plug-ins, to easily extend the functionality of IDL. Find code to add to your IDL application, or share what you've developed with colleagues around the world.

Now, IDL 7.1 has a new Plug-in Wizard that makes it virtually effortless to share development components or extend your IDL application with components developed by other people. The Plug-in Wizard guides you through a step-by-step process for creating, accessing, and sharing plug-ins.

### Expanded File Open Capability

Without writing any code, IDL now allows you to open many file types, making it easier to access and visualize data, including, BMP, GIF, TIFF, JPG, ISV, and more. Simply use the File>Open menu or click on a file to open it from within IDL or Windows Explorer – it's that easy.



