

McIDAS Survey

This survey will be used to identify the McIDAS functionality that is important to the McIDAS community, as we investigate and prepare a transition to a new Java-based environment: McIDAS-V. See:

http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/mug/hot_topics/mugmtg/2003/presentations/ssec_mcidas_future.ppt

for information about our transition plans presented at the October 2003 MUG meeting.

1. McIDAS-X commands can be run in many different ways. Rate the importance of each of these on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not important and 5 is extremely important.
 - a. McIDAS command window
 - b. McIDAS GUI
 - c. McIDAS Batch files
 - d. F-Keys and F-Key menus
 - e. McBASl files
 - f. McIDAS scheduler
 - g. Unix prompt or shell scripts
 - h. Scheduled through cron
 - i. Other, please describe

2. Some McIDAS-X commands interact with the display or require user input while running. Rate the importance of each of these on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not important and 5 is extremely important.
 - a. ASK1
 - b. CM
 - c. DIST
 - d. EB
 - e. FRMLABEL with CRAWL=
 - f. GRDDISP with MOVIE=
 - g. IMG MAG
 - h. IMG PLOT
 - i. IMG PROBE with MODE=l
 - j. IMG TRACK
 - k. PCMW
 - l. STNLIST with MODE=l
 - m. TOWNS
 - n. UACROSS with MODE=l
 - o. ZA with Mouse option
 - p. ZLM with MODE=l

3. McIDAS has some unique concepts. Rate the importance of each of these on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not important and 5 is extremely

- important. For those you rate a 4 or 5, please include a description of how it's used:
- a. Paneled frames
 - b. Independent graphics
 - c. Virtual graphics
 - d. String tables
 - e. X Window fonts for labeling
 - f. REDIRECT for locating files
 - g. Briefing frames
 - h. 3 channel combination
4. McIDAS-X uses frames that are user-defined, sequentially numbered, and have a fixed size. This will not be the case in McIDAS-V, as frames will be located and addressable by their contents rather than by a number. How important are numerically addressable frames, for example: SF 5?
 5. The output from McIDAS-X commands fall into a few categories. For each of these, give an example of core McIDAS commands that are used at your site to generate these different output formats.
 - a. McIDAS compatible output file (Areas, for example)
 - b. Text file
 - c. Graphics, saved to GIF, JPEG, etc.
 - d. Other, please describe
 6. For locally developed code, basically describe what the application does and what the inputs and outputs are. Also, take into consideration the following:
 - a. If the output includes graphics, provide a URL of a screenshot.
 - b. Does this code make use of data, input or output, that is not part of the standard McIDAS package?
 - c. Does the user interact with the program with the mouse or keyboard while it's running?
 7. After we compile information from this survey, we will be looking for a longer-term commitment from several McIDAS users in the community to help us through the remainder of transition process. At a minimum, this would involve interviews, testing, and feedback to us -- we would expect that several hours will be needed for each of these, spread out over a year. Please rate your interest (as an individual) in continued involvement:
 - 1 - no thanks
 - 2 - yes, but I may not have the time
 - 3 - absolutely - please pick me!