

## European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers Annual Conference and Exhibition, Paris, June 2004.

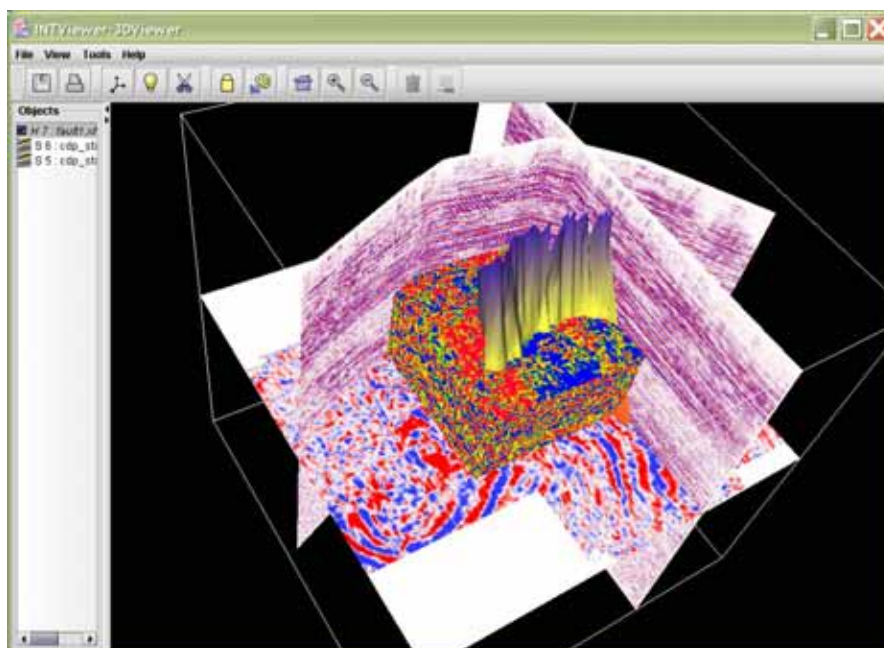


Figure 1 INT's 3D Viewer<sup>1</sup>

While the upstream software business evolves gradually, hardware is seeing a veritable sea change towards **cluster-based visualization** solutions. To enumerate a few: Schlumberger with GigaViz, IBM with Deep View, HP with Sepia, Paradigm with ResNav, Linux Networx/Fraunhofer with PV-4D and, if you want to do it yourself, you can talk to TGS (now Mercury) whose VolumeViz technology is under the hood of many third part implementations.

Perhaps because of this, alliances between software and hardware vendors are popping up. **Landmark** is teaming with **IBM** on a variety of shrink-wrap solutions, typified by its Rapid Prospect Generation Engine. IBM is also allying with **Schlumberger** to sell 'on demand' computing (DCCoD) for example to perform multi-pass modeling with Eclipse and the new **Cougar** pre-processor. While **HP** is also working with Schlumberger to develop... shrink wrap solutions.

Looking further down into the hardware stack – and indeed into the alliance space, **Intel** gets a special mention. Last year, most everybody had a 'solution' built to run on Itanium 2 clusters. This was the next big thing and would kill SGI, Sun, and especially AMD. Except that the Itanium 2 has been a flop and **AMD's** Opteron has taken over the 64 bit market. Now Intel is rolling out a 64 bit Xeon chip while they fix the Itanium and is meanwhile doing the rounds, keeping its old Itanium customers 'on message' with healthy dollops of FUD<sup>2</sup>.

Unfortunately, there was little cooperation between the plenary **speakers** (or more accurately, readers). This meant that they all came along with the same slides and discourse. Remember the days when oil was heading south of \$25 – and we were told

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<sup>1</sup> All images are ©, courtesy of the companies concerned and gratefully acknowledged.

<sup>2</sup> Fear, uncertainty and doubt.

that low cost oil was ‘here to stay?’ Well now that oil is heading north of \$40 the pundits are saying high price oil is ‘here to stay’. Whatever.

Counting a few pages of the pre-registration names, we figured that around 20% of the attendees worked for oil and gas companies and NOCs. A much higher proportion of (potential) buyers to sellers than has been the case in the past.

Having the EAGE located in Paris meant that there was an awful lot of talk of statistics and uncertainty. Hardly a presentation or product escapes this vogue, to the extent that folks seem almost more concerned about the error in the error than on the numbers themselves. Geostatistics and uncertainty have been applied to reserve computations for some time now. Now the same math is offered to support seismic velocity analysis (ERM.S) and sedimentology (Geovariances).

Having to do multiple ‘realizations’ of models which are already very compute-intensive – even when run only once – means that it is wise to avoid a full frontal approach. One interesting strategy uses ‘experimental design’ to screen models for key input sensitivities (**Cougar** from the IFP). Even the good old history match is getting a re-vamp – with the application of statistical tests to determine the validity of different match hypotheses from the data itself (Scandpower’s **Mepo**).

On the Society front, lots of philosophizing has come from the EAGE and SPE – whose president Kate Baker gave a talk at the plenary. All the orgs are coming under pressure to limit the number of conferences. Because conferences equate to revenue for the orgs, this is not happening very fast. In fact it’s not happening at all!

Speaking of revenue, the EAGE is the only conference which requires payment from the press (including The Data Room/Oil IT Journal) to attend, which does not exactly endear them to us. But making the young things who distribute the Hart’s Show Daily pay for a day ticket? And refusing Hart’s reporter access to the plenary because he had the wrong sort of pass? That’s hard nosed!

### **Highlights**

[Executive Session](#)

[IFP’s Cougar](#)

[Interviews](#)

[INTViewer](#)

[Landmark’s Tanks and Tubes](#)

[Lessons of a merger – Total](#)

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