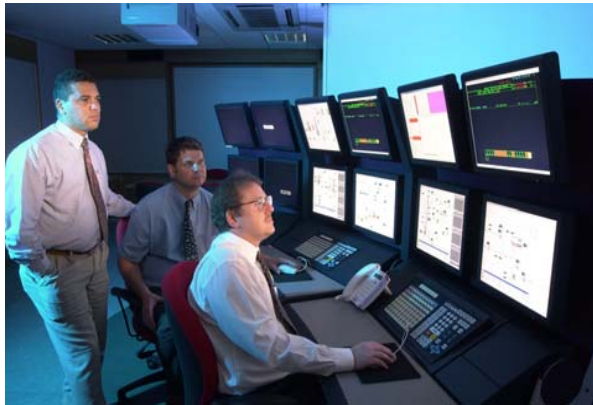


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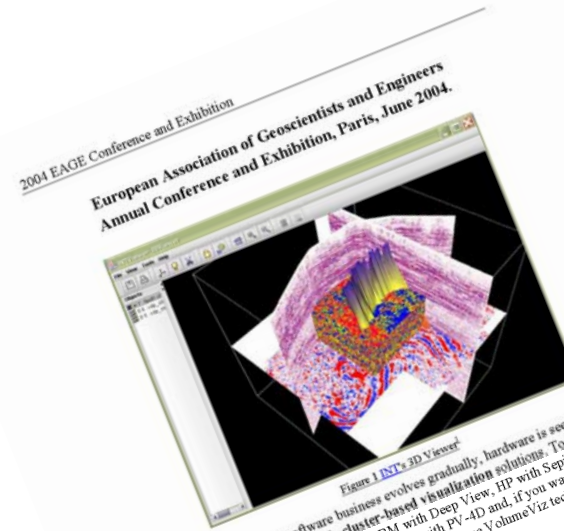


Figure 1 INT's 3D Viewer

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 Networks/Fraunhofer with PV-4D and, if you want to do it yourself, you can talk to TOS (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 (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 it meanwhile doing the rounds, keeping its old Itanium customers' on message' with healthy dollops of FUD².

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

¹ All images are ©, courtesy of the companies concerned and gratefully acknowledged.
² Fear, uncertainty and doubt.

Technology Watch Report 1

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