

A Picture's Worth 1,000 (or more) Data Points: Using Data Visualization Tools to Present Large Quantities of Water Quality Data

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Biographical Sketch

Chris Buck is a Software Engineer at Apprise Technologies. In this position he is responsible for the design and implementation of software ranging from low-level embedded systems to high-level visualization software for use with the large amounts of data acquired from Apprise's RUSS product line.

Abstract

Given recent technological advances in water quality monitoring, more data than ever is being gathered by researchers and production managers. Finer resolution is being achieved both temporally and spatially, revealing previously unknown trends in both natural and man-made water bodies. Discovering these trends and which water quality parameters are involved can be greatly simplified if the data over a long period of time can be summarized in a graphical format. Additionally, disseminating these results to non-technical personnel and the public is best done in an easy-to-understand graphical format. General-purpose software packages, such as Microsoft Excel, are generally not well suited for presenting limnological data. More specialized software packages tend to be very expensive and typically require a steep learning curve. This presentation will demonstrate how the Data Visualization Toolkit from Apprise Technologies can be used to turn large quantities of water quality data into informative graphs.