

Subject: Re: New IDL Update Policy

Posted by [bowman](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 1993 15:31:56 GMT

I think that RSI's new update policy is perfectly understandable. They are in the business to make money, they have a good product, and they can charge what they want. I think that their past policy of free updates (sans support) has been exceedingly generous. I am happy to pay the \$250/year fee for updates, although I would rather not have to pay the \$200 for support. I have used support in the past only for help with some undocumented features (CALL_EXTERNAL on the RS6000, for which a document now exists), and I like to think I have helped RSI by reporting some bugs. RSI has been one of the best software companies that I have ever had to deal with, and I strongly recommend it to friends. (Perhaps I should ask for a commission, since the Meteorology Dept. has bought a license, and I think Lassen Research is switching their commercial turnkey radar display software to IDL because of me. :-))

The price for new licenses, however, has pretty much moved out of our price range (for research grants to universities). We would like to buy a 6-user node locked license (\$4,500), since floating licenses and unlimited licenses are way out of reach, but we will have to wait. There are people in our immediate group, and in the department, who would like to use IDL, but I cannot support them on my single machine. Maybe next year we will have the funds. If floating licenses or node-locked licenses were \$500 each, we could buy several and add others as needed. I don't know whether RSI could make money at that price, but in our case they would make something rather than nothing.

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