
Subject: Re: IDLSPEC

Posted by [rivers](#) on Sat, 09 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <3549019D.ABC78B98@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu>, "J.D. Smith"

<jdsmith@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu> writes:

> Visit <http://astrosun.tn.cornell.edu/staff/jdsmith/IDLSPEC.html> for
> recent IDLSPEC results, along with some graphs of most entrants'
> performances, thanks to Terry Herter. These graphs really make the
> relative performances of various machines quite clear.

I would like to add a caution about the results of the graphics times reported in this survey. While respondents reported what graphics hardware was in the system, they did not provide information on what MODE that hardware was running in, specifically how many bits (8, 16, 32, etc.) or what resolution the display was set to. I have just found that this makes a HUGE difference on my system. I have a Pentium II machine with a DIAMOND Stealth 3D 2000 Pro video card.

If I set my display for 1024x768 16777216 colors I get the following results for graphics_times2:

19.7790=Total Time, 3.3734063=Geometric mean, 4 tests.

However, if I set my display for 1024x768 256 colors I get the following results for graphics_times2:

3.04400=Total Time, 0.51242809=Geometric mean, 4 tests.

Thus, there is more than a factor of 6 difference between the times reported depending upon whether I use 8 bit mode or 24 bit mode. Without knowing what mode the machines were set to in the survey, the results are hard to compare.

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