
Subject: Re: Upgrade from 3.6

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Wed, 10 Jun 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Jay E Cable wrote:

> I am looking into how much work is involved in upgrading idl. Currently
> we are using a 3.6 on a osf alpha, and would like to upgrade to the
> latest version of idl. If anyone has gone though this before, and has
> any advice or suggestions about how much work is involved, I would really
> apreachate it. We are using idl for the gui of a large software system,
> so the main interest is in how much the widgets and what not have changed.

Why not just download the IDL 5.1 demo version from <ftp://ftp.rsinc.com>, install it on the same machine, and try running you application? Or, you can get RSI to send you the IDL 5.1 CD-ROM, which will let you run your application without installing IDL on your system.

As far as the widgets go, it will depend on how your program was put together. You've probably got a good chance of success if you've already verified that the IDL 3.6 version of your application runs on several different platforms. However, the following items would be danger signs:

- (1) The application has only ever been run on one platform (even worse, only on a single machine),
- (2) The code is single spaced, with few comments, and every line starts in column 1,
- (3) The programmer who developed it is no longer around.

Just my \$0.02 cents worth.

Cheers,
Liam.
