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Subject: Re: IDL Setup

Posted by [callen](#) on Fri, 25 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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> I am trying to set up IDL on a PC running FreeBSD 3.0. The compiler I  
> am using runs on Linux and several commercial flavors of UNIX but does  
> not officially run on FreeBSD. Is there any way to get this compiler  
> working on my current system?

I switched an NT license over to a "Linux" license and am happily running IDL 5.1.1 under FreeBSD 2.2.6 (after too many annoying NT problems, grrr...). Note that IDL is a commercial product, and you will only be able to run it in "7 minute demo" mode until you get a license.

1. Turn on Linux compatibility in FreeBSD. This involves setting a switch in /etc/rc.conf, then installing the Linux compatibility libraries (I installed from /usr/ports/emulators/linux\_somethingorother). You are now able to run Linux x86 ELF binaries (hmm... probably have to reboot first).

2. Download the Linux distribution and install as per the instructions. Mine's straight in /usr/local/rsi.

3. Go into the rsi/idl/bin directory and for every shell script (there are LOTS), look for a switch statement on `uname` and add an appropriate result for "FreeBSD":

```
case `uname` in
...
  "ULTRIX") OS="ultrix";;

  "Linux") OS="linux";;

  "FreeBSD") OS="linux";;
```

4. Tell RSI you're using FreeBSD so that they'll have more incentive to make a native FreeBSD port!

-- Charles Allen -- [callen@bga.com](mailto:callen@bga.com) --

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