
Subject: Re: MacOS X

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 02 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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J.D. Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:

> Has anyone heard if RSI will offer a version of IDL for the new Macintosh
> operating system OSX (that's "Ten" for those not in the know)?

My understanding is that IDL 5.4 will include support for the G4 Velocity Engine (AltiVec) on certain key operators. RSI is currently soliciting beta testers to test this support on Macs. I'd contact them if you are interested in learning more about this. The beta is coming "soon."

With respect to other features of OSX that RSI might take advantage of, it is far too early to tell. Isn't OSX still nearly a 6-8 months out? That is an eternity in the software business, especially given Apple's history of missing deadlines by months and years. Software companies don't get rich by incorporating features for virtual operating systems. :-)

Better to wait for OSX.I.III.IV and see how things shake out. But given IDL's historical UNIX-centric approach to things, the folks at RSI must be chomping at the bit to take advantage of some of the features that will be available. Lord knows the Mac can use some UNIX flavor. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I've heard RSI has its ears open for suggestions if anyone cares to make them.

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