
Subject: Re: IDL i/o on G4
Posted by [dirk](#) on Fri, 16 Mar 2001 04:40:26 GMT
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In article <3AB152F6.48743F25@astro.cornell.edu>,
JD Smith <jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu> wrote:

> "Dmitri A. Sergatskov" wrote:

>

>>

>>> I should think a G4 titanium with OSX would be just about the fastest
>>> laptop for running IDL available, but only if RSI is on the ball and has
>>> a version ready when it hits prime time (sometime this summer, though
>>> the release is next week).

>>>

[snip]

>

> I have used almost exclusively Linux IDL. I find it very stable. The
> problem you refer to has to do with hardware and the free X display
> servers, not IDL, and has been (partially) alleviated with XFree86
> v4.0. It's the inability to simultaneously *overlay* an 8-bit
> pseudo-color visual on a native 24-bit Truecolor session. Usually you
> want to do this to accomodate a program written in a color-depth
> specific way (yes David, it is a crime). Overlay functionality has been
> typical of most unix workstation video hardware for a long time, but has
> only recently been catching on among standard PC components. The Matrox
> cards are a good example.

Hey JD --

I haven't been keeping up with the characteristics of the new Xfree
distributions. Is it possible to have multiple visual classes on the
same screen, or do I still need to start another session in 8bit mode?
Xfree86 development seems to have nearly ground to halt over the past 2
years, and it was my understanding that version 4 didn't end up having
overlay capabilities despite advertisement to the contrary. What's the
scoop?

- Dirk
