
Subject: Re: IDL i/o on G4

Posted by [dima](#) on Thu, 15 Mar 2001 20:18:53 GMT

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On Thu, 15 Mar 2001 12:47:53 -0500,
JD Smith <jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu> wrote:

....<deleted>....

>

> If I were you, I'd drop RSI a line and ask two things:

>

> 1. What are your plans with respect to MacOSX?

>

> 2. If you have internal builds of IDL for MOSX, can you comment on I/O

> performance? Altivec usage? Command line support?

>

Thanks, I will do.

> 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).

>

Sometimes I wish Apple would get a clue and _pay RSI (and Mathworks
for that matters) money_ to do that. They advertise the G4 as
a "supercomputer", but so far it looks more like a glorified
\$5k DVD player. I am pretty sure it was one of the reasons
the Cube fail.

> You might also consider bothering RSI about LinuxPPC support, which

> should be pretty trivial for them. Then your I/O issues largely

> disappear.

One would think they can do it. After all RSI were probably the first to
port serious application on x86/Linux. They also have TerraSoft next door.
From the other end I was always dissapointed with x86/Linux port of IDL
(I have not tried the latest releas though). It was not very stable,
required multiple visuals (that x86 hardware would not provide)...

>

> Keep in mind however that all laptops' I/O will underperform: disk size

> and weight are optimized over speed.

>

I understand that. My major concern is a sustain memory throughput.

It is not going to be a major number cruncher.

> Good luck,

>

> JD

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Dmitri.
