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Subject: Re: IDL 5.4 and MacOS 9.1

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2001 15:50:01 GMT

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Hi Dominik,

- > Maybe you are right. The SCSI drive is a external (5 or 10 MB per sec ?) in
- > an older G3 (but not an upgraded) with an SCSI port still directly on the
- > board. There is no network connection at all. Hope you know which one I
- > mean, this beige G3 with 233MHz. There is no network connection at all. On
- > the weekend I will format the external drive and/or reinstal my system.

I know the machine you are talking about, we have one here. My colleague uses it as a shelf for a G4 Titanium laptop now, after the upgrades. Even the internal data bus on that one is slow compared to G4s. I would guess that revamping the external drive is not going to improve it a lot, and suggest that you use the internal drive. Although on my pre-G3 PowerComputing clone I have at home IDL started still faster than on yours, using a 20 Mb/s SCSI bus. So I'd blame a slow, fragmented drive.

- > So, another thing we observed is, that a big calculation a P3 with 900Mhz
- > and 512MB took 42 secs, while on a Mac the same calculating only took 22
- > secs. Does somebody have experience in performance comparison Mac<->PC ???

RSI said that Macs are the fastest to run IDL. I assume that pertains to G4s, where IDL takes advantage of the Motorola's chip. My guess here would be that G3 chip is a little more efficient than a P3 (while more expensive), and the system bus is faster. Does P3 have a 33 MHz bus? You can get some idea if you run IDL's timetests on both and look at which tests are slower on a Pentium. I'd bet those would be disk access tests. I want to try IDL on my home PC w/Duron 750, but need to get a CD from RSI.

Cheers,  
Pavel

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