
Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2001 20:35:36 GMT

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I must say that I am extremely disappointed to learn that RSI is no longer planning to support Mac OS X and encourage everyone who shares my feelings to CC all complaints and newsgroup discussions on this topic directly to Mathew Powell and his coworkers at RSI.

Mathew Powell <mpowell@rsinc.com>
PR Manager
Research Systems
Boulder, CO

As for myself, I am also forwarding this news to friends at Mathorks and Wavemetrics as there will undoubtedly be an opportunity for data analysis/visualization packages on OS X. While I quite enjoyed using IDL and have found it to be an excellent analysis tool, I am now planning to halt my IDL development and begin working in C/C++/F95 again with NCAR GKS and Gnuplot. I will also no longer be supporting the IDL code (including a few widely distributed DLMS) I have written-- to those who have copies, please accept my sincerest apology but I am in the 2nd year of my D.Phil. and don't have time to support software that I am no longer planning to use.

To put it mildly, to learn that OS X will not be supported is a real problem for me. Luckily, I put off my personal IDL license purchase -- choosing to wait until the OS X beta appeared. My major requirement for any commercial numerical analysis program I use is that it work on most (if not all) of the major operating systems. Personally, I need to have code which works on my Macintosh laptop and departmental Linux machines. While I usually avoid running the various windows OS's, support for this is required as many colleagues use my code under windows.

I don't usually relay emails from RSI to the group, but in this case I am making an exception. Included below is an email I received just over a month ago:

Date: Wed, 5 Sep 2001 13:52:29 -0600
From: Matthew Powell <mpowell@rsinc.com>
To: 'Randall Skelton' <rskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk>
Cc: Clark Coffey <ccoffey@rsinc.com>, Harold Cline <harold@rsinc.com>
Subject: RE: IDL on Mac OS X

Hi Randall:

Thanks for your message.

We are planning on releasing IDL for Mac OS X in the 1st quarter of 2002.
Thank you for your interest in our technology.

Matthew

Also, a message from May 2001 regarding some details of the OS X implementation:

"Will the new version of IDL for OS X use the native BSD (i.e. unix) underpinnings? At the moment I use socket libraries for unix as well as multi-threaded (POSIX) C routines for some calculations. Will these be supported?"

Date: Tue, 8 May 2001 16:08:50 -0600
From: Matthew Powell <mpowell@rsinc.com>
To: 'Randall Skelton' <rskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: IDL for OS X

Hi Randall:
My apologies for the delay in responding, and thanks for your message.
The answer to both of your questions is "yes".
I hope this is what you wanted to hear.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Cordially,

Matthew

Being an optimist, I hope that this is merely a delay due to the present economic conditions and not a cancellation of the entire RSI OS X product line. IDL was, in my opinion, the best cross-platform analysis and visualization package available.

Sincerely,
Randall Skelton

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On Mon, 8 Oct 2001, K. Bowman wrote:

[snip]

> I went looking for the RSI press release from last spring announcing OS
> X support, but it seems to have disappeared from their web page. Then
> I found the "What's New in IDL 5.5" page.

>

> <http://www.rsinc.com/idl/whatsnew.cfm>

>

> Buried at the bottom is a table of current and future support and the
> following note:

>

> NOTE: RSI will be unable to provide IDL on the MAC OS X platform as
> previously planned.

>

> This is really a disaster for us. We have purchased new Macs based on
> RSI's previous press release promising OS X support. I am extremely
> disappointed that they are breaking their promise, but I expect that we
> are simply screwed.

>

> How about at least providing us with a Mac version that will run from
> the command line on OS X (using X-Windows)? That should be a
> relatively straightforward port.

>

> Ken Bowman
