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Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Stein Vidar Hagfors H\[1\]](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2001 18:34:27 GMT

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colinr@toliman.uio.no (Colin Rosenthal) writes:

> On Tue, 09 Oct 2001 17:44:57 GMT,  
> Dick Jackson <dick@d-jackson.com> wrote:  
>  
>> Does anyone else agree that PC and Unix IDL users \*also\* benefit from the  
>> fact that IDL reaches to the Mac platform? To my mind, knowing that code I  
>> develop on PC can (in general) run on Mac as well adds value to my work, and  
>> I'd think it reasonable to consider some of PC and Unix licence/maintenance  
>> fees as going to support Mac development.  
>  
> Absolutely. I don't use a Mac myself but I share code with  
> colleagues who do.

And Colin, you certainly use Compac Alpha Tru64!!

It may be that nobody that can step in and take IDL's place instantly, but platform independence is one of IDL's big selling points. Dropping platforms left & right certainly makes them \*very\* vulnerable to competition in the long run (and now I'm talking about the people on the \*supported\* platforms). And the 180 degree turnaround we learned of yesterday (no wonder they hadn't heard any complaints yet!) is certainly not good PR..

I can understand that they haven't announced their turnaround with any fanfare, since it essentially amounts to abandoning a significant number of customers \*after\* leading them into a blind alley (with big fanfare!), but then they shouldn't expect people to know about it and have complained already.

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