
Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Todd Clements](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2001 17:43:24 GMT

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Here's a copy of my letter to RSI/Kodak:

To whom it may concern -

I'm a fifth year graduate student in physical chemistry. We have a lab with three licenses for IDL, none of which are for the Macintosh. In the years that I've used IDL, I've fallen in love with the language and the power it has to analyze and visualize large data sets.

My current career direction is to be in academia, probably directing my own group. Likely I will have data analysis needs, and up until last week, I was very likely to use IDL for those needs since I loved the language. However, my computing platform of choice is Macintosh, and will continue to be, especially with the release of OSX and a powerful, robust UNIX environment with a GUI that actually makes sense. In my current lab, we have no IDL licenses for the Mac since my advisors platform of choice is not Mac, but that does NOT mean that Mac support is not important.

Several people who have left this lab have gone on to other labs, and based on our use of IDL, have arranged purchases of IDL licenses in other labs. You've designed a great language, and it can be contagious. However, despite how much I love IDL, I won't be trying to convince anyone to buy it. I won't be using it in any lab I run. Students and post-docs who leave my future lab will never have used IDL. Not because I'm defending Apple for the sake of defending Apple, but because you are no longer going to support my platform of choice. In my eyes, IDL is no longer a "truly" cross platform solution, which is very important to me.

Who knows how many licenses (+maintenance agreements, etc.) RSI/Kodak will lose based solely on my decision to not use IDL once I leave this lab. Five? Ten? Fifty? I agree, it's hard to say, but I do know that RSI will be losing my business. How many other customers are in a similar situation? I hope you took all of this into account when you made the decision to drop a major platform.

Sincerely,
Todd Clements
