
Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [gschneider](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 23:01:26 GMT

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The recent turn-about by RSI (now Kodak) has hit us hard.
Here is an email I sent to RSI about this. I urge other
Mac platform IDL users to follow suit:

Dear Mr. Powell,

As I have now seen your recent statement regarding
RSI's dropping of IDL for MacOS in future releases,
I am forwarding an email I sent to Eileen yesterday.

Our immediate group (NICMOS Project @ UofA) has
eight current IDL/Mac licences in use. I realize
that this is not a huge number, but we are all
upset that you are deserting us. I have discussed this with
each of them and I can say my letter speaks for all.

I should add since my letter that your offer to:

> Customers using RSI products on one of these platforms can transfer their
> licenses to another supported platform at no additional cost if they are
> currently on maintenance.

is rather hollow as it is not a viable alternative for us as we
have made substantial commitments in H/W, S/W, and time
developing our Macintosh based environments. This is not simply
a matter of cost (though we are not please about the suggested
concept of abandoning all of our Macintosh hardware) but also
of productivity. To say we are dissappointed is an understatement.

Glenn Schneider

From: STOSC::GSCHNEIDER "Glenn Schneider, mail forward from stsci.edu" 8-OC
T-2001 19:04:15.90

To: SMTP%"efield@rsinc.com",SMTP%"info@researchsystems.com"

CC: GSCHNEIDER

Subj: Termination of IDL/Noesys under MacOS

Dear Eileen & RSI,

Having just returned from the ADASS XI conference,
where I gave a talk extolling the merits of IDL and

IDL+Noesys for astronomical data analysis, I was both shocked and saddened to learn of RSI's apparent decision to drop support for both under MacOS. As the NICMOS Project's Instrument Scientist at Steward Observatory I have been a long time user of both IDL (on several platforms), Transform (reborn in Noesys), and Mac OS. The later is by far my environment of choice, and I routinely use both RSI products to reduce and analyze large volumes of HST data under Mac OS for myself, our team, and others in the astronomical community.

Years ago our Instrument team selected IDL as our research and development environment in part because of its cross-platform support. We have had, and continue to have, a significant number of dedicated Mac OS users in our group and the impending loss of IDL (and Transform under Noesys) will deal us a significant blow. I am sure I speak for more than just myself when I ask if this is an irrevocable decision? I had wondered what changes might be afoot with Kodak's acquisition of RSI, but I had never dreamed we would have our support cut off at the knees. Did you query your user community before reaching this decision, or was it taken unilaterally? I understand that IDL and Noesys is the intellectual property of RSI, now Kodak, and it certainly is within your right to make such a decision. I could possibly understand that decision if your company had decided to terminate the product line, but to drop support from one platform in particular, i.e., under Mac OS is unfathomable. I would ask if you would reconsider this, as I feel that you are doing more than a disservice to a significant user community, but by doing so would forever earn their rightful distrust.

Respectfully,
Glenn Schneider, Ph.D.
NICMOS Project Instrument Scientist
Steward Observatory
University of Arizona

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*   <<< Near Infrared Camera and Multi-Object Spectrometer >>>   *
*       !!!! Now at Rest in the Hubble Space Telescope !!!!       *
* Science Mission Completed: 18 Dec 1998   Cryogen Depleted: 04 Jan, 1999   *
*=====
=====*
* GLENN SCHNEIDER      * Phone: 520-621-5865 FAX: 520-621-1891 Telex: 467175 *
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* Instrument Scientist * email: gschneider@as.arizona.edu *

* Steward Observatory * ftp: starsrus.as.arizona.edu *

* NICMOS Project N326 *****

* University of Arizona * World Wide Web Information Server: *

* Tucson, AZ 85721 USA * http://nicmosis.as.arizona.edu:8000/ *

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* !!!! "Wishing you clear skies, and good seeing." !!!! -GS- *

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