
Subject: Re: Expecting Phone Call from Oprah
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 21:01:53 GMT
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Randall Skelton (rshkelto@atm.ox.ac.uk) writes:

- > Any comments from a long-time RSI man regarding the dropping of Mac OS X?
- > I seem to recall you warning of some changes when Kodak took over.
- > Nevertheless, you've been rather silent on this point.
- >
- > Oh yes, given the lack of Macintosh support in future IDL releases, I have
- > one, slightly used, copy of your 2nd ed. book that I am willing to sell.

"Slightly used"!? You must not write many IDL programs.
Mine is dog-eared. :-)

I haven't been silent, I've just been biting my tongue. I think this is just about exactly what you can expect when large corporations start to make decisions. There is no question it is a good business decision, if you are considering just the ins and outs of money. There are, quite frankly, not very many Mac users. And I don't even think Apple believes the Mac is going to be a big scientific computing platform.

When things are flush, it is no problem doing fringe projects. But things are not flush at Kodak, not by a long shot. I wouldn't expect more platforms to bite the dust, but I do expect more products to fall into disfavor. Who is using River Tools anyway?

Anyway, I think this is probably a sad day for Dave, Ali, and the other good guys at RSI, for whom money was never the most important thing. Their number one goal--always--was producing quality software for scientists. I'm glad I'm not there anymore.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I have the same feeling in the pit of my stomach as I did when Office

Depot came into town and put all those
Stationary stores out of business. :-(

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