
Subject: Re: Mac OS info

Posted by [Ken Prager](#) on Thu, 11 Oct 2001 17:36:45 GMT

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In article <3BC5CFEC.A3F1154B@jhuapl.edu>,
"Noam R. Izenberg" <noam.izenberg@jhuapl.edu> wrote:

- > The RSI staff had a company wide meeting this morning. I happened to call a
- > contact just after and
- > talked for a while. I have some info, some changed opinions, and a potential
- > route to more
- > information later today.
- >
- > Changes:
- > I'm convinced Kodak has little or nothing to do with the decision. Aside from
- > more meetings and
- > profitability pressure, Kodak is not seen as dictating anything to RSI.
- >
- > I'm convinced that the decision to drop OS X was financially based, though
- > that further convinces me
- > the analysis was wrongheaded and/or incomplete. The following points are what
- > I gleaned. YMMV
- > - RSI's sales dropped 50% 1999 to 2000
- > - The largest new contract was either not mac and/or not supportive of Mac
- > updates.
- > - The largest mac contractor was not up for helping with OS X development
- > costs
- > - Apple itself was stingy with information (regarding market predictions for
- > OS X) and unwilling to
- > help development other than with some hardware.
- > - RSI realized that with just Thierry doing the programming, the whole
- > project was a pizza truck
- > accident away from total loss, so at least a backup programmer was needed ->
- > more expense.
- >
- > I still think they're wrong about the recoverability of the expense, but
- > that's for another
- > conversation.
- >
- > Info:
- > At today's meeting two possibilities were discussed:
- > 1) Support of IDL 5.5 in Classic mode of OS X is being considered. I already
- > use 5.4 in Classic mode
- > at I would say 95% efficiency even without support. [Opinion: This might give
- > IDL time to observe the
- > market response to OS X to re-evaluate their decision]
- > 2) A port or emulator for IDL into Mac Linux is being considered. Not an
- > aqua-ized total rewrite, but

- > something to let us run IDL natively in OS X nonetheless. [Opinion: as a
- > command line user of IDL,
- > this would be plenty for me.]
- > Also: Thierry, though relieved of OS X is still salaried and/or retained
- > until the end of the year,
- > and is apparently being taken good care of. Indicates he (hopefully) would
- > not be averse to coming
- > back to the project (even as a contractor).
- > Also: Management has been at least somewhat receptive to reported offers from
- > outsiders to finish
- > at least a port, if not full a OS X version.
- > Also: Our concerns are being heard and given a company wide floor to air.
- > Also: The information to customers is recognized as being poor and
- > insufficient. They are working
- > on better communications. The proof of that will be seen or not in the next
- > few days.
- >
- > Hopefully more later,
- >
- > Noam

Thanks for the update!

Ken Prager
