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Subject: Mac OS info

Posted by [Noam R. Izenberg](#) on Thu, 11 Oct 2001 16:59:24 GMT

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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

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