
Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 11 Oct 2001 01:33:38 GMT

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Hi David

There are just a couple of points in your latest post I want to quibble with

- > And I am sorry to see the whole "Alternatives
- > to IDL" thread appear again. We hashed this whole
- > thing over several months ago. Yes, there are
- > alternatives to IDL. But let's be honest, most
- > of them suck in one way or the other. None of
- > them, *none* of them, are going to capture more
- > than an extremely small fraction of IDL users.

I'm not sorry at all. I am a scientist who does a lot of data analysis and I am always aware of the possibility that I could get my job done better with a different suite of tools. I am also very aware of the transition costs! So I enjoy reading informed discussion of the merits of different tools. Just today I learned from JD that OpenDX doesn't have a Postscript renderer, which saves me the trouble of having to find it out for myself. (Surprisingly enough, the published information about software packages tends to tell you what the package *has*, not what it doesn't have.)

- > P.S. I just saw that sales of Eastman Kodak were
- > 3.5 billion last quarter. Do you really think a loss
- > of a couple hundred thousand dollars of revenue from
- > disgruntled customers matters to them? This is just
- > the price *we* pay for a corporate culture.

If "a couple hundred thousand dollars of revenue" doesn't matter to them then why does the cost of supporting the Mac matter to them?

The Kodak takeover may have introduced a different corporate culture and a more hard-nosed attitude to financial performance, but I should think the RSI division still has to stand on its own feet financially.

Mark Hadfield

m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield>

National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research

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