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Subject: Re: Mac OS info

Posted by [Dennis Boccippio](#) on Fri, 12 Oct 2001 14:11:06 GMT

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In article <005101c15298\$0db30ff0\$d938a8c0@Hadfield>,  
"Mark Hadfield" <m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz> wrote:

> Thanks.

>

> NB: I wrote my message in the other thread asking you for more info about  
> the financial aspects before I saw this.

>

> I just spoke to CEO Mike Scally(?) who estimated the cost of fully  
> developing & supporting Mac OS X as \$0.5M. Not peanuts. Several times he  
> mentioned that it used a very different code base from other versions.

>

This makes the issue even more disconcerting. \$500K is about 250-300 licenses at Un\*x rates. I really find it hard to believe there won't be that many converts from Un\*x boxes (or new Powerbook license purchases), and that the "review of the current MacOS user base" neglects this factor.

It costs us a \*heck\* of a lot more to maintain our boutique SGIs (almost solely for the purpose of running IDL) than our desktop machines. IT support is higher, memory expansion is more expensive, network card upgrades are more expensive, we can't add low-cost FireWire drives for disk expansion (a BIG drawback), etc, and we usually also have to maintain a desktop Mac or PC in the same office \_anyway\_.

In our small group of 12, we have 4 Mac owners, only one of which ponied up for an IDL/MacOS license, primarily because IDL/MacOS was hobbled by the non-multitasking thing. I know the other 3 would go IDL/OS-X if it were available. The reduced maintenance costs would even justify buying these as new licenses, rather than platform conversions, and even at Un\*x rates. That doesn't even consider new licenses for Powerbooks. ~100 similar stories would add up to \$500K pretty quickly...

- Dennis Boccippio

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