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Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [pit](#) on Sat, 13 Oct 2001 18:44:27 GMT

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David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:

- > But given all that, I don't think this decision
- > will be changed. I don't know the leadership at RSI,
- > or anything about them, but I don't expect them
- > to change their mind for this reason.

Well, they will have to live with the consequences.

And definitely one consequence is that they have shown that they are not really reliable. This effect cannot be counted in numbers, but should not be underestimated.

- > 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.

But 10 alternatives times a few percent \*each\* is an amount that RSI/Kodak has to think about. I'd guess only very few people are really using all that IDL offers, so they are content with an alternative that satisfies exact that needs (I, for one, don't need all that object oriented stuff).

- > I really hate to be cynical on a newsgroup I
- > love so much, but I don't believe the majority
- > of the people beating their chests now will really
- > leave IDL.

We are not using Macs, but we are using Alphas. No, I don't think we are going to 'leave' IDL that fast, but we are lost for RSI, as we don't buy new licenses anymore. For them, that is just as good as 'leaving IDL'.

- > Too many colleagues, too much invested,
- > too easy to buy a new Dell machine and carry on.

This is maybe fine for people running one computer. What about network licenses in 20-30 computer environments? Do you also want to 'just buy 30 Dells'? Sorry if I laugh...

- > And you will end up needing the new feature IDL

- > has added that is not available in whatever the
- > alternative de jour is that you decided to use
- > as a protest.

1) I bought the license, I can use it as long as I want.

2) Many 'alternatives' are open source projects. Include the feature yourself, or find someone who does it...

- > But in the end, you have
- > to realize that this is how things are in the
- > real world. We don't always like it, I'll grant
- > you that. But sometimes we have to accept it.
- > Sometimes that is the best alternative of all.

Yes, we may have to accept the decision they made. but they also have to accept our decision. And at least for me one thin is clear: I'd *\*never\** switch to a Win-PC (and the concentration of RSI on the Wintel-platform is obvious for quite some time already). If that means 'Good-Bye IDL', it *\*is\** Good-Bye IDL.

Pit

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Dr. Peter "Pit" Suetterlin                      <http://www.astro.uu.nl/~suetter>  
Sterrenkundig Instituut Utrecht  
Tel.: +31 (0)30 253 5225                      [P.Suetterlin@astro.uu.nl](mailto:P.Suetterlin@astro.uu.nl)

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