
Subject: Re: RSI CEO Open Letter To Our Macintosh Customers
Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Wed, 17 Oct 2001 07:26:06 GMT
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On Tue, 16 Oct 2001, Matthew Powell wrote:

- > RSI CEO Open Letter To Our Macintosh Customers
- > October 16, 2001

[snip]

- > Despite our best intentions and commitment, the hard facts of our revenue
- > from the Mac platform combined with the high cost of supporting OS X with a
- > separate code base led to the decision that going forward with the Mac OS X
- > release would not only be unprofitable for RSI, it would jeopardize the
- > quality of support for our core platforms. As much as we would like to
- > provide this release to our customers we would not be acting in a
- > responsible manner of sustaining a viable business for our customers and
- > shareholders.

This leaves me weary about the support for other OS's... What are the 'hard facts of revenue' for some of the other *nix platforms? Admittedly, support for Linux, IRIX, Solaris, HPUX, and AIX, doesn't require as significant a re-development as Mac OS X (aqua) does. Nevertheless, I wonder if all the other OSs are truly profitable. Will we all be expected to migrate to WindowsXP over the next 2 years? At the bottom of this letter, a number of myths were dispelled... the one which was left out was whether RSI will be dropping other 'unprofitable' platforms in the near future...

- > We are currently evaluating the possibility of providing support in IDL for
- > both a Mac Classic format (OS 9 running on OS X) and/or a native
- > Unix/X-Windows implementation on Mac OS X. Once we have determined the
- > feasibility of each of these options we will let you know what we can do
- > going forward.

A classic version of IDL will not do it for me... I want to be able to use *nix features and *nix shared libraries. Tying IDL to applescript on OS X would be a bad idea. In Mr. Cooke's letter he commented on using a commercial Xwindows library to port to OS X. This is fine by me but I do hope they are also testing with the XFree libraries.

Last week IDL for the Mac looked to be dead while now it merely looks uncertain-- I don't really know which is better.

Cheers,
Randall
