
Subject: which *nix will RSI nix next?

Posted by [Richard French](#) on Wed, 24 Oct 2001 00:13:05 GMT

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I am still stunned by RSI's decision to cut out so many established UNIX platforms. I noticed in the 5.5 release that, not only is Alpha True64 ending up in the trash can (so much for all of us old DEC users who have relied on IDL for a decade), but IBM unix stations are being 'considered' for possible sacrifice next time around (at least, that is how I read their statement).

Loss of cross-platform compatibility is one big loss, of course, but another is the fear that whatever choice one makes for a replacement to an abandoned flavor of UNIX will be the next one on RSI's list of unprofitable systems. They want to concentrate on their 'core constituents' but they don't give any indication of which system they consider their highest priority. Do any of you want to invest \$10K in a new firebreathing commercial workstation from Sun, only to find in three years that RSI doesn't think it is sufficiently profitable to stay on the select list of supported systems?

I've been using IDL for work on the NASA Cassini mission to Saturn. I've been telling my colleagues for years that its great strength is that IDL code is portable across operating systems. So much for that argument. I think we will have to change to MATLAB, much as I don't want to.

I wish there were a way to get a straight answer on this from RSI. It is a serious question. I am deeply disappointed.

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