
Subject: Re: Other IDL / Mac advantages

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Wed, 24 Oct 2001 18:44:12 GMT

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Ron Syml wrote:

- >
- > Apple employs a team of cognitive psychologists who understand how people
- > interact with computers. This is the core reason that Apple operating
- > systems
- > have books defining how applications must behave and how a gui is to be
- > presented. The fact that RSI is choosing to ignore this and develop IDL
- > based
- > on an antiquated/illogical unix interface is disappointing to many mac
- > users.
- > Microsoft's windows API doesn't define the same standard which is why each
- > windows developer can use different control/function keys, menus, and
- > widgets
- > in a windows application.

This may be a bit off-topic.

Forgive my lack of knowledge about Macs (only used one once) but given that they are easy and simple to use (I'll take your word for it since every other Mac user I know says the same thing) how come they aren't the top selling system? Is it simply because Apple made a decision a million years ago not to go the IBM route and license (or whatever) the hardware to all and sundry? If so, it certainly kept the Apple gene pool untainted but at what cost? I don't think I have ever studied/worked anywhere where Macs were seriously considered because they were simply so much more expensive than equivalent PC type systems. That may not be true anymore, but now there is a large number of folks out there that are, uh..., "attuned" to the Windows environment.

My one personal experience with a Mac was many many years ago when the person showing me how to use it (my up-to-then experience wholly with VAX-VMS and Unix systems) stared blankly at me when I asked how to open up a term window so I could hunt around the system looking at stuff. It's a really stupid thing, but I get sorta uncomfortable when I *don't* have the ability to delete the root partition (ah, memories). Probably a human-computer inferiority complex or something....

paulv

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Paul van Delst Religious and cultural
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP purity is a fundamentalist
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 fantasy
Fax:(301)763-8545 V.S.Naipaul
