
Subject: Re: OT(ish): ANA seems to be back
Posted by [Ron Syml](#) on Wed, 14 Nov 2001 14:55:56 GMT
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On Wed, 14 Nov 2001, David Fanning wrote:

- > This is the downside of "free" software. At least
- > when you pay for it you get *something*, even if you
- > don't get the help files to be able to use it.

David, what are your plans if/when RSI self-destructs due to developer/sales infighting and IDL ceases to exist? The big problem with proprietary, binary distributed software is that there always a potential that if the company folds (or decides that your OS of choice isn't 'profitable') you will be stuck with thousands of lines of worthless code when you next upgrade your operating system. Of course, you don't have to upgrade your hardware/software-- I *could* choose to keep my beige powermac G3 with macOS 8.6 installed for the next decade just for the privilege of running IDL...

One of the downsides for IDL seems to be that even if you are willing to pay, RSI may not compile a binary for your choosen OS. At least I can compile R, scilab, octave, yorick, and ANA on my different unix machines!

Ron

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