Subject: Re: LINUX version of IDL
Posted by larkum on Thu, 06 Oct 1994 07:36:31 GMT

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In article 8oi@netnews.upenn.edu, mark@ginger.biophys.upenn.edu (Mark Elliott) writes:
>
> I'm interseted in persuading RSI to support IDL under LINUX. LINUX
> is the free, GNU-like version of UNIX for use on Intel-486 based machines (i.e.
> DOS machines). Our experience with LINUX has been terrific. It is a complete
> implemtation of BSD-Unix which turns a $2000 PC into a Unix workstation as
> powerful and functional as any $10,000+ workstation (SUN,SGI,IBM,...)
> The only thing lacking for us is a binary of IDL which will run under LINUX.

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!!!!!!!
We feel exactly the same way. What's more, I expect the conversion of IDL to
LINUX from a Sun implementation would be relatively trivial. There are
plenty of programs that compile without problems under LINUX and those
that don't never require much changing. Well, that's using gcc I suppose, and I
don't know what RSI use.

I wonder if RSI have really come into contact with LINUX? The normal reaction
to LINUX on first hearing about is, "Oh yeah, sounds too good to be true", and
I've never seen anyone left unmoved when they actually see it running. My
486DX2-66 runs faster than our Sun workstation under LINUX. It would probably
be a good environment for RSI to _develop_ IDL under. Just think, all the
programmers could work on an individual workstation for a fraction of the cost
and could also go home and work on their own PCs with equivalent ease. On
second, thoughts, maybe they don't want to hear about taking their work home
with them.

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