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Subject: Re: David Stern Leaves RSI

Posted by [Jonathan Boswell](#) on Tue, 18 Dec 2001 22:06:48 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> IDL is a tremendous legacy, David. You done  
> real, real good. Now go enjoy that retirement  
> or whatever it is you want to do.

Hear hear. My first interaction with David (back in 1985?) was remarkable. I was complaining about what I thought was a bug in IDL, though it was actually a documented feature. Without offering any excuses, David promptly provided an entirely new clipping algorithm (using the !NOCLIP system variable if memory serves) which did what I wanted. He even provided an updated IDL image the next day for free. Perhaps he doesn't give snazzy presentations, but for this repeat customer, he is without peer!

Contrast this with RSI after the acquisition. New license prices approximately doubled, and support was dropped for my favorite platform (Alpha/VMS) the very next month. I don't blame David one bit for bowing out. He was probably driven out (but I have no inside info on this so it's pure speculation). I am reminded of Steve Jobs leaving Apple. Perhaps one day David too will return. At least I dearly hope he does.

- JB

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