

David Fanning wrote:

> Robert Stockwell (rgs1967@hotmail.com) writes:

>> PS anyone else amazed that RSI let this broken "24bit color on linux"  
>> out the door. OOPS! I think we should chip in and by them a linux  
>> computer that they can at least run the new releases before they ship!  
>>  
>  
> There is always huge pressure around a software release to  
> either (1) meet the ship date, or (2) fix the software.

Tell me about it :)

I often do programming as an independent contractor and  
there has never been a case where the client  
has allocated enough time to "properly" finish a project.  
There is always a decision to be made on what features and  
functionality will be dropped from the final version.

But broken linux/color seems to be a rather large bug to slip by.  
I'm not much a a linux user, but it seems that 24 bit color  
in linux would be quite common.

> Fixing the software is never finished, so eventually  
> you just say "What the hell, enough is enough" and  
> ship the software. It's like writing a book in that  
> respect, which is why editor's impose deadlines  
>  
> But shipping with broken color and no help files is  
> making the decision at the completely wrong end of  
> the continuum, in my opinion. I'd have been much more  
> content to wait another couple weeks or even a month  
> for a more complete product. I feel embarrassed for  
> them, and I don't even work there.

I agree. I was embarrassed when I helped a colleague convert  
some simple matlab code to IDL. He read in some data, and  
created an image overlayed on a map, and the results were  
terrible (due to the crazy colors). He interpreted it as  
an error in reading the data, when in fact I had to inform

him that it was merely broken IDL. I don't think we won over a user from Matlab.

(Especially since I had in the past (jokingly) chided him for using a toy scripting language like matlab, when real scientists used the awesome programming power of objects and pointers with IDL. lol )

But I suppose RSI is telling us that color is only for the style-over-substance crowd.

Cheers,  
bob stockwell  
aka bobby greyscale

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