
Subject: Re: LINUX version of IDL
Posted by [miff](#) on Sun, 16 Oct 1994 10:44:13 GMT
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First things first : This is not meant to be an operating system flame.
I aim to 1) support the original poster's intentions, and 2) correct
some of his obvious errors.

larkum@optolab.unibe.ch (Matthew Larkum) 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,...)

Bear in mind that Linux is not an implementation of BSD unix.

FreeBSD and NetBSD are BSD implementations. Linux is a unix-like operating
system originally developed by Linus Torvalds. All are freely available,
and perform wonderfully on low-priced hardware.

>> The only thing lacking for us is a binary of IDL which will run under LINUX.

Binaries for a number of operating systems would be nice. There are those
of us who would like to run IDL in extremely harsh environments, where
ruggedised PC hardware has a significant price advantage, and a high-
-reliability PC unix like FreeBSD would be preferable to, say, Intel Solaris
or Linux.

The PC BSD's and Linux share a very similar programming model, and a clean
port to any one would make a port to the others extremely trivial. Given
the low cost of hardware, this would potentially produce a significant
market slice for RSI.

The only question I would ask is, would your departmental head be willing
to support any of the free Intel unices?

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mike smith : miff@apanix.apana.org.au - Silicon grease monkey #
"The question 'why are the fundamental laws of nature mathematical' #
then invites the trivial response 'because we define as fundamental #
those laws which are mathematical'". Paul Davies, The_Mind_of_God.
