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Subject: Choice of 64-bit platform for IDL

Posted by [Wolf Schweitzer](#) on Mon, 24 May 2004 12:55:49 GMT

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We are evaluating the purchase of a 64-bit platform for IDL.

The Apple Powermac G5 does not support 8 GB of RAM for a single process so far and no one at Apple, and the performance of IDL under X11 is slower than on a simple IBM Thinkpad running the Windows IDL version, so we are getting ready to move. Of course, the G5 is very productive on all other fronts, and "we all hope" that in due time, the G5 will become the prime 64-bit-visualisation system in scientific computing.

There's no 64-bit-Linux support because those developments are probably too recent, there's no 64-bit Windows so far, so we're left with a choice of Unix platforms.

What we want to do is analyze, work with, and visualise, 3D-volume data that ranges around 900 MB to 2.5 GB.

Which are your recommendations?

- AIX: As I saw on older posts on this list, AIX was ready to be dropped from IDL customer support. What's the current situation? Is AIX having a large customer base @ RSINC, or are the numbers dwindling? Is IDL under AIX on current IBM systems, such as the Intellistation Power 275, very fast? The Power 275 seems to be rather fast according to the Spec2000 ([www.spec.org](http://www.spec.org)). Can someone confirm this, maybe include a time\_test2 times?

- SGI: Is IRIX still a main system supported by RSI, or are they getting ready to drop that, too? As far as I found, this board did not report too many negative experiences with SGI. On the other hand, these systems are very expensive.

- Solaris: Are Sun Blade workstations a good choice? Is Solaris very common among IDL users?

- HP/UX: What about the Itanium support? Itanium 2, maybe? No news by RSI yet, right?

Thank you very much for any suggestions on how to choose a good 64-bit workstation for IDL,

Wolf Schweitzer.

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