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Subject: Re: Choice of 64-bit platform for IDL

Posted by [Philip Kershaw](#) on Tue, 25 May 2004 14:04:40 GMT

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"Wolf Schweitzer" <shwi@irm.unizh.ch> wrote in message  
news:40b1f080\$1@zinews.unizh.ch...

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

Not sure if this applies to your application but a customer has asked us to deliver some s/w using IDL Data Miner for connectivity with a database. This only runs as 32-bit! Not sure if this applies to any other IDL add-ons?

We've used Solaris here on 64-bit architecture for a while. IDL seems more robust than on Windows. I have encountered some problems though with some of the widget functionality for X Windows. Most of these bugs seem to have been ironed out for IDL 6.0.

We've just ordered a Sun Blade 1500 with 3GB memory. Price was very reasonable.

Cheers,  
Phil

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