
Subject: Re: Platform recommendation/tradeoffs?

Posted by [kid](#) on Fri, 14 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <3mhc42\$6lt@mozo.cc.purdue.edu>, smithjp@sage.cc.purdue.edu (Joseph Smith) wrote:

- > I am about to order some flavor of IDL (Mac or Unix) and
- > I'm wondering if anyone can help me gauge just how much performance
- > I loose by getting the Mac product. (This saves me enough money
- > to buy a Q630 cpu)

Hi Joe -

I've been using IDL on a Mac Ilfx for the last month or so and on a Sun SPARCstation 10 for the last couple years. I also had a chance to run the native demo version of IDL on a PowerMac 7100/66 (my quick and informal testing put the PowerMac at about 75% the speed of the SS-10). The Mac Ilfx runs IDL pretty well on applications that don't require a lot of memory or disk access. I have one (lots of 16-bit graphics and array manipualtions) that I was playing with today that requires about 60 MB of RAM (the Ilfx only has 20 MB, so the rest was VM). As I expected, performance was pretty poor, but it ran correctly.

If you already have the Q630, I think it would be adequate for what you are intending to run on it. If not, I'd get a PowerMac instead. You can download a Mac demo version (10 minute not 30 day due to Mac license managers) from gateway.rsinc.com to try out on your Q630 to get a decent idea.

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