In article <3pirg8$667@hammer.msfc.nasa.gov>, mallozzi@ssl.msfc.nasa.gov wrote:

>> I just got an e-mail from IDL on Monday which tells me that
>> IDL v. 4.0 for Windows will now require the use of a hardware
>> dongle which hangs off the printer port. No mention was made
>> of this when they solicited the renewal of my maintanance
>> contract. I run IDL on 486 notebook and am annoyed that I will...
>
> Future IDL session:
>
> $ IDL
> IDL> Please deposit blood sample for DNA testing to initiate IDL session.

    Does anyone know if this policy extends to the Mac as well? IDL betas
of versions 3 and 4 have required this (actually, the dongle hangs on the
Apple Desktop Bus, to which the keyboard[s] and pointing device[s] are
connected, and so is somewhat less burdensome/likely to be lost when a
printer or machine is changed out), but not the production versions of IDL
3.m.n.

    The only Mac market I know of that relies heavily on dongles in MIDI,
and the folks in those Usene groups seem fairly solidly against the
practice, also because of the hassles with laptops.

    In a way, this raises the whole issue of IDL license management, since
more and more machines are supposed to go wireless in the next few years.
This will make it less and less likely that a fixed IP address will work
as a security "collateral." I realize that RSI doesn't like to enter this
newsgroup (just lurk), but has anyone there thought about this issue?

    I ask because we're seriously thinking about getting a PowerPC
PowerBook when they're released (purportedly) late this summer, and IDL
would be part of the reason for getting such a machine. The higher-end
models will come standard with a wireless network interface, which is
cretainly a lot more convenient when moving from place to place than an
AAUI-to-<your flavor of Ethernet here> trannsceiver plus patch cord plus
IDL dongle. (Even HP printers are supposed to be produced with wireless
interfaces in the near future, so this is not just Apple's idea of the
future of networking.)

    Inquiring IDL addicts want to know....

            Joe Gurman

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