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Subject: Re: Best platform for IDL 6.2?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 16 Nov 2005 04:30:22 GMT

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Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

> David, you really need to quit libeling Macs. People tend to believe  
> you when you talk about IDL. ;-) I run IDL on multiple platforms,  
> including Macs, Linux, and IRIX. I have no problem running my IDL codes  
> on all of those platforms, and I can't think of anything I have in my  
> codes that is Mac specific.

Libelling Macs! Heck, I *\*like\** them! But I spend a couple of hours a day trying to get them to work with IDL code that works everywhere else just fine.

The real problem is probably NOT the Mac. Or even IDL software. The *\*real\** problem is that (I say this from my own personal experience) most of the people who have them don't know the first thing about using them! My God, folks, they are UNIX platforms!! That is NOT the easiest operating system to negotiate even if it *\*is\** dressed up as a Mac.

I'll be honest with you, at least a third of the people in an IDL programming class--*\*any\** IDL programming class don't even know how to operate their own code editor. You think I am joking, but I am not. When you look at an error message and say the "error is on line 28" more than 50% of the people in the room don't know how to negotiate their way there. And then you want these people to configure and support their Macs! Maybe I'm getting old and cynical, but it just ain't gonna happen.

For the Macintosh to be useful to the people who love them and have to have them, they are going to have to be a LOT easier to use. Just my two cents. Personally, I would think of buying one if I didn't have to also make the huge investment in all the other non-IDL software I'd have to have to run my life.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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