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Subject: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2006 19:59:42 GMT

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Apple just announced a new Intel-based, dual core "MacBook", using the newly announced "Core Duo" chip. Check it out here:

<http://www.apple.com/macbookpro/>

This looks like the ultimate IDL mobile workstation. Now, the question is, will IDL 6.3 be offered as a Universal Binary for the Mac? Since we know RSI never really put much into Altivec (if anything at all), it would seem to me that a port to Intel for Mac would be as simple as clicking the "Compile Universal Binary" box. Given how many Powerbooks I see floating around at conferences, I think they should strongly consider ticking that box. This machine will sell.

Since they are compiling IDL with GCC, we should see similar performance as available on similarly-equipped Linux systems (it's the same exact compiler). Since GCC was such a woeful underperformer for PowerPC, the speed advantages would be multiply compounded. I would guess the new MacBook would offer IDL performance up to 5 times as fast as the current Powerbook G4 (for problem sizes which can take advantage of both cores). All that, and a shiny metal case too (not to mention the built-in video-cam).

Anyone have the inside scoop?

JD

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