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Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Fri, 13 Jan 2006 17:56:06 GMT

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On Fri, 13 Jan 2006 15:55:32 +0000, Ricardo Bugalho wrote:

- > Hello,
- > a couple of points, depending on your interest: - Mac OS X for Intel won't
- > emulate AltiVec. So, if IDL makes any use of it, IDL might not run. OTOH,
- > unlike SSE, AltiVec never supported double precision so it's likely IDL
- > won't use it. - If you don't care about Mac OS X and just want Apple's
- > tradicional quality in laptops, you might be able to install Linux on it.

It turns out IDL does use a small bit of AltiVec on a very few basic operations. I had thought it used none, but was corrected. So this means that IDL likely will *\*not\** run under Rosetta (the new on-the-fly PPC->Intel translator). The main question is, does IDL run on a G3 processor? It certainly used to, back in the day, so it probably still does, which means when Rosetta tells IDL it is a G3, it may well fall back on some slower code and not choke. SSE is another kettle of fish. In a year's time, probably well over 75% of IDL's user base will be running on the same processor architecture. Thinking about using SSE/SIMD is probably a good idea (and they are).

JD

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