
Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans
Posted by [Wolf Schweitzer](#) on Tue, 17 Jan 2006 16:16:06 GMT
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Gianguido Cianci wrote:

> IDL 6.3 will not be tested or supported on the
> Mac for Intel architecture.

Thanks for this update!

After an Apple developer told me 1 1/2 years back, indirectly, "not to wait" for a fully 64-bit OS, and after one could sense the reluctance on RSI's side, I don't regret having abandoned Apple for workstation strength computing.

Most importantly, working on X11 isn't THAT different from working on Linux or AIX. We talked about "hard reasons" to buy OS X based machines recently; real (hard) reasons to us OS X are not Open Office 2.0, web browsing, e-mail, web-based MySQL/pHp-packages, statistical software or The Gimp (they all are available / run on Windows or Linux cheaper and faster) - but mostly entertainment or creative sound packages such as iTunes, Reason 3.0 Synthesizer Software. So for such, or for any other - irrational - reason, I definitely love OS X.

As my G4 Powermac is getting extremely "old" in that it doesn't keep up with the computing speeds that I need in IDL for some applications, I now run IDL 6.2 on a Suse Linux 10 / AMD-workstation at home, and the performance is simply great. Dynamic frequency scaling makes the workstation perform with a minimum of ventilation noise otherwise as processor frequency is scaled down on idle. I got myself that Fujitsu Siemens Celsius v830, and it's a great machine. You really get more hardware options (your choice of AMD Opteron processors, up to dual 280; up to 32 GB RAM; 4 drive bays; several bays for slot/tray loading drives) - where Apple doesn't offer nearly that much for even DOUBLE the price on their G5 powermac platform. That RSI seems to support Linux / AMD 64-bit in the foreseeable future was a great decision that suits me just fine.

Conversely, no notebook of any brand really says "power programming enabled", so all they can be used for is solving some smaller problems. For now, that's done on existing investments without sweats (Powerbook). For at least 2-3 years, PPC based Macs will be still widely supported, so I quite honestly don't see why there should be a particular big pressure "right now". Right now, one could also consider the Centrino Duo notebooks by Dell (up to 1920 x 1200 pixels resolution, better than any notebook Apple sells), or the Acer Travelmate 8200 (up to 4 GB RAM, better than any notebook Apple sells).

It is really to be hoped that we will see Apple's OS X on Fujitsu Siemens, Dell or Acer, on IBM replacing AIX, within the next 2-3 years. If not, we hope at least for KDE to continue to be user friendly.

Wolf.
