I've just posted the following to the RSI User Forum, but thought I'd
also share it with this group. Let the flames begin! :-)

I've been using IDL for over ten years now. My field (earthquake
seismology) is also heavily populated by mac users, and always has
been. Most of my colleagues switched from IDL to Matlab back when RSI
abandoned the mac. The subsequent port to X11 has never been truly
satisfactory. Many of the great features of IDL 5.1 never made it to
*nix - things like a quality built-in editor with syntax highlighting.

I understand that emacs is the programmers' preferred way to do code,
and that IT types inexplicably like Windows. However, IDL claims to be
a *scientific* visualization and analysis package. If RSI really wants
scientists to use their product, then they should be responsive to what
scientists want, rather than what's popular with software engineers.
That means things like Mac/Intel and <gasp> Direct Graphics.

Honestly, the only reason I haven't switched to Matlab (which is more
responsive to scientists) is that it would take me far too long to port
all my legacy code. This is not a good way to keep a user-base happy!

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