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Subject: Intel iMac IDL performance

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2006 21:09:53 GMT

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Apple loaned us an Intel Dual-Core iMac for a few days for testing. Here is a quick comparison:

Intel system specs:

- 2 GHz Intel Core Duo (2 cpus)
- 2 GB DDR2 SDRAM
- 667 MHz bus
- OS X 10.4.5

PowerPC system specs:

- 2.5 GHz PowerPC G5 (4 cpus)
- 2 GB DDR2 SDRAM
- 1.25 GHz bus
- OS X 10.4.5

We installed the Mac (PowerPC) version of IDL on both. The Intel runs IDL via emulation software (Rosetta).

My IDL benchmark code (dominated by 3-D interpolation, random memory access):

- PowerPC 31 s
- Intel iMac 61 s

I played with the IDL demo programs on the Intel iMac and everything that I tried ran fine. Basic interactive IDL performance is very quick.

All in all, IDL seems to run fine. Performance is quite respectable for an emulated system. Native IDL performance (when available) could be comparable to the G5.

Ken Bowman

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