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Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [news.verizon.net](mailto:news.verizon.net) on Sun, 05 Nov 2006 20:39:08 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

- >
- > Having spent five weeks in Hawaii last year in the
- > company of astronomers, I witnessed this dramatic
- > enthusiasm for Macs, and also noted the almost
- > universal inverse correlation of this enthusiasm
- > with UNIX knowledge.

My experience is that the correlation you noted in Hawaii is anomaly, and that the dramatic rise in Mac use among astronomers comes mainly from defections from Linux users, who are already familiar with Unix. My MacBook is arriving this week and I am leaving the Linux world with some regret that its limitations (e.g. the expertise required to be a system administrator & applications that never really matched those of the Mac/PC world) couldn't be overcome. The ability to run Unix on a Mac for my compute-intensive scientific applications is its big selling point for me (along with the ability to boot Windows if I need to.)

Like Jeff Hester, I would also like to see a writeup and/or a forum on making the the transition from Linux (or Windows) IDL to Mac IDL, though right now I can't contribute much. I do notice that if you search the IDL tech tips (<http://www.ittvis.com/services/search.asp>) for the Mac-Intel platform that you get a dozen recent tips.

- > I would put Paul van Delst's name forward
- > as someone who can provide insight into why a researcher
- > loves a machine that crashes 10 times a day. I will
- > say, however, that the spinning desktop thing is WAY cool. :-)

Nobody loves a machine that crashes 10 times a day but this does not seem to be a general OS problem but limited to a particular laptop model in a particular setup. --Wayne

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