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Subject: Re: IDL on openSUSE

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Mon, 02 Mar 2009 10:13:10 GMT

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cmancone@gmail.com wrote:

> On Feb 27, 3:48 am, Reimar Bauer <R.Ba...@fz-juelich.de> wrote:

>> Nigel Wade schrieb:

>>

>>> I'm currently in the process of setting up a new analysis computer which  
>>> requires IDL. I had hoped to use CentOS (RedHat) 5.2, because that's what  
I'm

>>> used to and I know IDL works.

>>

>>> However, the installation is proving troublesome because the CentOS/RedHat  
>>> installer doesn't like the graphics card/monitor combination, so I have to  
>>> install in text mode. This makes configuring the disks as LVM on RAID  
rather,

>>> how shall I put it, bothersome.

>>

>>> I've tried an OpenSUSE installer and that doesn't appear to have any  
problems

>>> with the graphics/monitor and provides a nice installation setup. But I  
have no

>>> experience of using IDL on OpenSUSE. So, has anyone every tried using IDL  
on

>>> OpenSUSE (specifically 64bit)? Does it work? Are there any gotchas I need  
to be

>>> aware of?

>>

>> yeah I have and do play a bit with idl7.0.3.

>>

>> Most of us do use idl 6.4 and we decided to wait for 7.1. Some of us  
>> believes that there was no major improvement since 6.2 for our work  
>> based on idl. While we all the time payed lots of money. (Well we forced  
>> them to upgrade netCDF)

>>

>> Don't talk about installing of idl. It is since years only copying.

>>

>> As a major improvement instead of extending libs for us I would also  
>> accept that they provide deb and rpm packages which can be easily  
>> installed and updated.

>>

>> If you follow other threads on this list you will see lot's of problems  
>> which are based on incompatible libs. A package installer will tell  
>> these problems beforehand. Or it will hold back updates until those  
>> problems were fixed.

>>

>> cheers  
>> Reimar  
>  
> Where I work the vast majority of the machines are running on  
> openSuse. Also, just about everyone uses IDL (6.4), with no trouble.  
> Of course I wasn't the one that installed IDL on all of these  
> computers, so I can't tell you if there were any gotcha's there.  
> Certainly though running it is trouble free, and has been for many  
> years.

Ok, thanks everyone.

It looks like Gnome desktop is the way to go then. I didn't know there were particular problems with KDE 4 (I use KDE 3.5 on RedHat on my desktop). In the past I've generally found the KDE has been more reliable, but also more annoying. I suppose it's progress to expect that KDE would catch up with Gnome and Windows in its "feature" list...

I don't envision using the IDE (Eclipse). We are die-hard IDL command-line, direct graphics, users here. iTools has never darkened our doorstep, and using graphics objects is a mystical and highly suspect "dark art" - that part of the manual still carries the "Here be Dragons" warning.

However, we do have a lot of external code and I need to decide whether to build it 32bit or 64bit. That will probably depend which version of IDL I can get working.

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Nigel Wade

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