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Subject: Re: IDL from home, via modem  
Posted by [hahn](#) on Thu, 11 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT  
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g.d.nowicki@larc.nasa.gov (Gregory D. Nowicki) wrote:

> In article <4s1k7e\$86d@newsbf02.news.aol.com>, metas@aol.com says...

[snip]

>> I currently have a classic Mac and use a tek4105 terminal emulator,

A couple if IDL function require a windowing system. However, many important function still work with a tek41xx emulator.

[snip]

>> X Windows? Linux/X Windows? Are there other devices besides  
>> 'X' and 'tek' which I could use to display on a PC or Mac?

No. Go with X !

> I run from home over a 28.8 modem link, used to be 14.4 - using a 486/66  
> running Linux, v1.3.99 - I think. (I upgrade so often, I sometimes forget).

That may depend on the kind of modems you use. Some employ data compression giving about 5 kBytes per second over a 28,8 kBit per second link. However, a poor quality of the phone line will reduce the data rate to 9600 kBit/sec...

> Xwindows is slow, but not painful as it was using 14.4 I am soon to  
> upgrade to ISDN. Unfortunately, the ISDN link will be to a network  
> provider, not to my worksite. So network delays will rear their ugly heads  
> and I don't think I'll see the full effect of the ISDN speed.

I'm afraid, you are right. The X network protocol requires a data transfer of about 5 kBytes per second and a round trip time of 50 msec for a decent working quality. ISDN will bring 8 kBytes per second per logical link (there are at least two logical links available), so you'll exceed the minimum data transfer rate. The round trip time however depends on the number of node involved because some nodes store the data to find the best route. This is done for packet switched networks. ISDN transmission is done in real time.

Round trip time is the time the X client has to wait for a message to get answered by the X server. Fortunately the X Window protocol uses message queues and avoids round trip requests when ever possible

.  
> Probably the worst thing I found you could do was run a web browser on a  
> server with the redirect to your home screen. It stunk compared to

> running a local copy.

Well, web browsers are designed to run on the local system. The html format is designed to go over slow lines, but the browser's output is made for a local connection.

> Linux is great, but if you're a first timer, I  
> suggest something like the Red Hat or Caldera distributions. They will  
> get you up and running pretty fast. Also, there is a version of IDL  
> for Linux that is pretty robust.

Yes. And installing some PC Windows and an X Server is no fun too.

Just my \$ 0.02 thoughts  
Norbert

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