Subject: Re: Is there a cheap implementation of IDL
Posted by Liam Gumley on Wed, 30 Oct 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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Ashley Unitt wrote:
> I want to be able to run IDL cheaply.
> Are there any shareware / freeware / cheap implementations available?

RSI makes IDL available via their FTP site at ftp://ftp.rsinc.com
Windows, Linux, and Macintosh versions are available for
lower end hardware.

The downloadable versions are fully functional, except for the
following important restrictions:

(1) IDL runs for 7 minutes, then quits.
(2) You cannot write/save anything to disk within IDL.

However it's not as bad as it sounds. I have used IDL in demo mode
more than once to get work done when a licensed version was not
available due to hardware problems, and my experience has been that

(1) Because you can only run IDL for 7 minutes, you quickly learn
to write IDL procedures - this is a good thing in my opinion!
(2) There are a couple of formats that you *can* save to disk while
in demo mode. One of them is Postscript. The other is HDF (SDS mode
anyway). You can do a lot with just these two output formats - maybe
there are others that I don't know about - I discovered these by
accident.

So give the IDL demo version a try. You might find you can do a lot
with it.

Cheers,
Liam.