
Subject: Re: IDL Windows vs Linux

Posted by [David R. Klassen](#) on Wed, 16 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Charles Martin wrote:

- > My question is: is there any advantage to buying the windows version?
- > It is not uncommon for me to save my results to a graphics file and then
- > load those results into Word or Powerpoint. Would I have any trouble
- > accessing the Linux files from Windows?

The only advantage I can see to getting the Windows version is that you will not have to reboot when you want to work with Word or Powerpoint. However, Windows cannot read Linux disk file systems. The option would be to have Linux write to the Windows/DOS partition when it outputs the files. I think Linux can now not only write to FAT disks but also FAT32 and even NTFS (but I'm not 100% sure of that).

There is a major disadvantage with the Win32s version of IDL4.0+ and that

is it does NOT properly handle long filenames. If a routine is in a file

with a non-8.3 name IDL will NOT be able to access it. This makes collaborating with UNIX IDL programmers a bit of a hassle. RSI claims that

the new 5.0 for Windows will have full long filename support.

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