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Subject: Re: IDL Windows vs Linux  
Posted by [pit](#) on Wed, 16 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article <martin-1504970838040001@biad27.uthscsa.edu>,  
martin@uthscsa.edu (Charles Martin) writes:

> Hi All,  
>  
> I want to get IDL for a PC. There are two ways to do this. One is to get a  
> linux version which will cost me \$500. The other is to get the windows  
> version that costs about \$1000. I use the Solaris version at work.  
> 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?  
>  
> Charles Martin, PhD

Hi!

I've learned IDL on SunOS. When I used it the first time with windows... well, it was horrible, as many things that I was used to didn't work like in Unix. After all, I ended up doing my image processing on a 12MB Laptop under Linux....

Concerning the Linux-Windows file conversion: The only difference (I believe) is the different treatment of End-of-line and End-of-file in text files. But there are tools to do the necessary conversion (recode is one of them).

For graphics files, there should be no problem at all (gif, tiff etc.)

Just one remark (if you are not aware of the problem): There's a difference in endianness between PC and Sun (if you intend to use the data on both architectures). PC uses little-endian, so you'll have to byte-swap your data (unless you write in XDR-Format). But that is valid for both IDL on Linux and Win.

Peter

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