
Subject: Re: IDL UNIX->PC code compatability
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 19 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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Scott Gennari writes:

- > We are considering the NT version of IDL (5.0 i guess) and have
- > been using UNIX Solaris IDL 4.x for a couple of years.
- >
- > What problems passing code back and forth between UNIX and PC
- > IDL will there be? What about byte swapping on PC's?

None if you were thinking ahead and put all your binary data in XDR format. :-)

If you didn't, ByteSwap will solve most of your problems.

- > I've heard about like length limitations on pathnames/filenames.
- > The bottom line is I don't want to have two versions of essentially
- > the same code for each platform just to deal with porting issues.

Get IDL 5.0 so you don't have to worry at all about file names. Make them as long as you like. (Although other software that you will probably have on your machine will still not **totally** like long filenames. Don't you wish you could pay a fortune and update all your software at once? :-)

- > Also any comments on IDL NT performance would be appreciated. We plan
- > on a 266 MHz PII with 128 MB RAM and SCSI2 drives.

My experience with IDL NT has been terrific. I love it. There are certainly bugs here and there, but these will all be gone in the next release. ;-)

- > It's just too bad an IDL/ENVI license will cost more than the PC. That
- > seems warped to me.

Even a 266 MHz PII is just a doorstop without software. Seems to me that a large part of the value of any system is the software you put on it. The question is, do you save \$1500 of time and effort using IDL as opposed to doing whatever it is you do some other way. Maybe you could write C programs. How much time and effort do you think it would take you to learn to write your programs in Visual C++? In my situation, I would probably starve before I figured it out. Makes IDL look like a bargain, at least to me.

Cheers,

David

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