
Subject: IDL for linux on Macintosh ppc
Posted by [sv\(q\)](#) on Tue, 06 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Has anyone successfully found a work-around for installing IDL on a Macintosh ppc running linux?

I have a dual boot G4 running Mac OS 9 and yellowdog linux (a port of redhat 6.0 to the ppc chip) and would like to run IDL on the linux partition. RSI supports linux, but only on the x86 architecture. Has anyone tried to address this problem? Does anyone have any interest in seeing IDL under linux on a Mac?

* Sent from AltaVista <http://www.altavista.com> Where you can also find related Web Pages, Images, Audios, Videos, News, and Shopping. Smart is Beautiful

Subject: Re: IDL for linux on Macintosh ppc
Posted by [noymer](#) on Wed, 07 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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As far as I am aware, few scientific software companies have ported to Linux/PPC, even among those who have ported to Linux/x86.

One exception is the statistical software Stata
<http://www.stata.com/> they support Linux/PPC and Linux/x86.

Stata can't hold a candle to IDL for graphics, but I thought I would point it out to you just in case you need a good stats package.

Good luck getting RSI to port IDL to Linux/PPC. I am running Linux on x86. Sorry can't be of more help.

-- Andrew
noymer@my-deja.com

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Subject: Re: IDL for linux on Macintosh ppc
Posted by [noymer](#) on Thu, 15 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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It always amazes me to see companies who have a product that runs on "Linux 6.0 or later" (vs. a kernel version number). And it amazes me even more to see companies (like RSI) who support only one distro.

RedHat version x.y doesn't mean sooo much standardization. Is it KDE, Gnome, plain X? Is lesstif installed? How is the kernel configured? Etc.

Why is it that Wolfram can get Mathematica to run on any distro? Why is it that Statcorp can get Stata to run on any distro --- and also supports Linux/PPC? And I would not be surprised to see Stata for Linux/SPARC or Linux/Alpha.

It seems to me that companies vary in their commitment to Linux and the ones with low commitment come up with whatever excuse is convenient to justify their stance.

Someone from SAS told me that Linux is not commercially viable, so no SAS for Linux. So tell me, what do they know at SAS that IBM, Compaq, SGI, Oracle, etc., don't?

-Andrew
noymer@my-deja.com

Sent via Deja.com <http://www.deja.com/>
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Subject: Re: IDL for linux on Macintosh ppc
Posted by [Paras Patel](#) on Thu, 15 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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"sv(q)" wrote:

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I doubt that you'll *ever* get RSI to port to Linux/PPC. They have difficulty acknowledging support for distributions other than Red Hat.

Here is an exerpt I received from Tech Support at RSI when I dared asked what I needed to do to get Debian GNU/Linux working properly with IDL.

<Some specific detail omitted....>

The question of Linux support is difficult. No matter what we decide to do, we will not be able to satisfy everyone. Research Systems offers a cross-platform visualization and analysis environment. Linux is one of 12 operating systems we support. Due to resourceconstraints, we focus our support on Redhat. This decision allows us to concentrate on the biggest share of the Linux user community.

DISCUSSION:

Support for a single Linux distribution causes some problems, especially since we have a strong international presence. In different countries, we are getting growing interest for Debian, S.U.S.E, Slackware, etc.. With issues related to versions of libraries and even the presence of native libraries (like libc), we are in a situation where we are having to statically link to these libraries to offer even minimal support to non-Redhat vendors. The result is an ever expanding footprint for our product.

Even within a single Linux implementation, we can not move as fast as the Redhat. Their Web site lists 19 different Redhat Linux releases in the past 4 years. This release schedule is far more dynamic than most software companies. It's more difficult to pace than most other operating systems. We also find Linux to have far less concern for backward compatibility. The last major release of IDL was in late 1998. At the time we increase support for the latest Redhat release, 5.1. By the time we released IDL 5.3 Redhat has gone through several additional releases (5.2, 6.0, 6.1 and I believe 6.2). Each of these releases includes hurdles in our ability to support them because of differences in the included system libraries.

We also wrestle with the unique characteristics of the Linux community.

While many of our Sun, SGI, or HP users may take years to move to new OS releases, Linux users, because of the lower cost, seem to migrate to new OS releases much quicker. This creates a problem where we have OS releases that are not backward compatible and users that move faster than we can release products to support these new OS versions.

<....more stuff>

Subject: Re: IDL for linux on Macintosh ppc
Posted by [Vincent Favre-Nicolin](#) on Fri, 16 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Andrew wrote:

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- > that runs on "Linux 6.0 or later" (vs. a kernel version
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- > run on any distro --- and also supports Linux/PPC?
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- > or Linux/Alpha.

In the present case, it is not only a matter of distribution. Supporting 'only RedHat' by RSI means that it has only be tested on RedHat, it does not mean that it will not run under other distributions. Similar distributions will certainly alos work. I have installed IDL on Suse 6.4 and it seems to work, although it's only the demo.

In the case of LinuxPPC, it is not the same *processor* so things are quite different ! Depending on how IDL was programmed , they may need some serious work to have it fonctionnal on a PowerPC + Linux. Still, since it already runs on many various (and big-endian) machines, most of the work should already have been done. But the question is : how many people would be interested ? I *do* use LinuxPPC at home so I would be interested, but I can understand their point of view.

BTW, there are *numerous* programs which do not run under LinuxPPC (StarOffice, and Mathematica too, I think), so RSI isn't that much isolated. A pity, but things are slowly changing

VFN

--

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Subject: Re: IDL for linux on Macintosh ppc

Posted by [pit](#) on Tue, 20 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <8ibmsv\$k87\$1@nnrp1.deja.com>,
Andrew <noymer@my-deja.com> writes:

- > It always amazes me to see companies who have a product
- > that runs on "Linux 6.0 or later" (vs. a kernel version
- > number). And it amazes me even more to see companies
- > (like RSI) who support only one distro.

Well, SAP is also one of them. I can sort of understand that in cases where the Software Product is tightly related to e.g. boot concept or filesystem hierarchy.

IDL is not such a product, so I cannot understand their position.

The only important thing is libraries, indeed.

And there, opposite to the claims of RSI before, the problem often even reverses, e.g. you have to upgrade your system software because you want to upgrade some software package that is linked against newer versions of a library.

The other way around (upgrade of the system but keep old version of software) is *never* critical for an open source system, as you always will have the option to get/keep the old version of the libraries, too (I still run an IDL 4.01 (libc4) on a SuSE 6.4 (glibc2.1) system.

- > It seems to me that companies vary in their commitment to
- > Linux and the ones with low commitment come up with
- > whatever excuse is convenient to justify their stance.

Indeed, that's what it is in most cases: Excuses, not reasons.

Peter

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