
Subject: Re: MacOS X

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 02 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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J.D. Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:

> Has anyone heard if RSI will offer a version of IDL for the new Macintosh
> operating system OSX (that's "Ten" for those not in the know)?

My understanding is that IDL 5.4 will include support for the G4 Velocity Engine (AltiVec) on certain key operators. RSI is currently soliciting beta testers to test this support on Macs. I'd contact them if you are interested in learning more about this. The beta is coming "soon."

With respect to other features of OSX that RSI might take advantage of, it is far too early to tell. Isn't OSX still nearly a 6-8 months out? That is an eternity in the software business, especially given Apple's history of missing deadlines by months and years. Software companies don't get rich by incorporating features for virtual operating systems. :-)

Better to wait for OSX.I.III.IV and see how things shake out. But given IDL's historical UNIX-centric approach to things, the folks at RSI must be chomping at the bit to take advantage of some of the features that will be available. Lord knows the Mac can use some UNIX flavor. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I've heard RSI has it's ears open for suggestions if anyone cares to make them.

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: MacOS X

Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Sat, 03 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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J.D. Smith, jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu writes:

- > 1. Do nothing and force users to run IDL in the "Classic"
- > compatibility

The nasty old cynic part of me has peered deep into his cups and announced that this will be the solution, accompanied by a doubling of the licence fee because OS X is essentially Unix.

The don't-worry-be-happy version is naive enough to take great heart from this:

http://www.rsinc.com/AppProfile/idl_Motorola.cfm

And the fact that that in the past Macs have been treated on an equal basis with other platforms (apart from the Windows-only geegaws).

I do my programming on one of the new Powerbooks, and don't hanker after a desktop G4.

One of the things I don't like about IDL on the Mac is that it is a single-threaded resource hog, which makes for frustration in a cooperative multitasking environment. It also makes it hard to, say, hook IDL up as a compute engine to a web server, or to analyse data on the same machine which runs the experiment. OS X and the rumoured multi-processing Macs will sidestep this nicely.

Struan
