
Subject: Kodak buys RSI!!

Posted by [Pete Riley](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hello IDLers,

What's the word on the street? This is news to me. A couple of questions:

1. Why does Kodak want RSI?
2. Given the answer to 1., what does this *really* mean for the future of IDL?

To speculate wildly, I would guess that Kodak needs a specific aspect of RSI - perhaps Rivertools or ENVI for some application of field they are moving into. Whatever it is, it's cheaper for them to buy an established application and mold it to their needs (and the irony of it if they only want Spyglass!). Now unless they've suddenly moved into the market of scientific analysis and visualization, I'd say this is a very bad thing for most of us. Of course I hope I'm wrong. I wonder whether we can get a refund on our maintenance contracts?

-Pete

Subject: Re: Kodak buys RSI!!

Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Thu, 28 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Struan Gray wrote:

- > If IDL was killed tomorrow I would still have the working version
- > I currently own, and although switching to another package would be a
- > pain, it's hardly the end of the world. So congrats to D. Stern for
- > cashing in on all his hard work, and I'll wait and see what happens
- > next.

Let's hope IDL isn't killed tomorrow... my superiors at NOAA
just purchased a site license!

Subject: Re: Kodak buys RSI!!

Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Thu, 28 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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I can see plenty of reasons why Kodak would want to buy RSI's technology to use internally and to offer to others in the form of packaged solutions. I can't see a compelling reason for them to sell

me a 4th generation programming tool.

That said, this is hardly a major bet-the-company investment for Kodak, so in practice pretty well anything could happen. The photographic arm seems to be in headless-chicken mode at present, but perhaps, like Baldrick, they have a plan.

I don't often disagree with David, but I'd say ION is probably the rough diamond hiding in RSI's crown (VIP is another matter: as Bob S. said, it is a very poor copy of Labview). Despite Kodak's interests in medical and scientific imaging they have always made the bulk of their money from consumer photography. It's pretty clear that supplying analogue film for snapshots is not a long-term solution. Digital photofinishing over the web will probably take over, and that means image processing for the masses, if only to crop, colour-balance and add captions.

If IDL was killed tomorrow I would still have the working version I currently own, and although switching to another package would be a pain, it's hardly the end of the world. So congrats to D. Stern for cashing in on all his hard work, and I'll wait and see what happens next.

Struan

Subject: Re: Kodak buys RSI!!
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Fri, 29 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Struan Gray wrote:

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>
> Struan

But that's only a solution until you upgrade your OS and find that the current binaries no longer work. Or you upgrade your license server and need new license keys.

I certainly hope they continue to maintain and develop the core IDL package. That's the one we rely on here. Switching to any other package

would be a major headache for us - our routine day-to-day data processing and graphics is built on IDL.

We will be keeping a close watch on developments at RSI/Kodak.

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