Subject: IDL on VMS??
Posted by Harvey Rarback on Fri, 10 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Folks,

Is anybody else as upset as I am about Kodak's lack of support for OpenVMS
after
version 5.4? Considering the history of IDL on the platform and the still
large
number of scientists using VMS, it seems like a mistake to me.

Any suggestions for getting Kodak to reconsider?

--Harvey

Subject: Re: IDL on VMS??
Posted by Paul van Delst on Mon, 13 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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William Thompson wrote:
>
> Two of the instruments aboard the Solar and
> Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) satellite use OpenVMS for their operational
> systems, and IDL is an integral part of the operations software for at least
> one of those systems, and I believe the other one as well. We also are aware
> of sites which still depend on OpenVMS for data analysis.

This is sorta non-IDL related, but readers should check out the SoHO website
(http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov or http://sohowww.estec.esa.nl for those across the pond)
for the latest pictures from that satellite showing the coronal mass ejection that
occurred last week.

I am assuming that the images are IDL produced so it should be o.k. to post this kudo
here, right? :o)

Cool stuff, great pictures. Good job to all those involved. Makes me want to learn more
about solar physics.

paulv

--
Paul van Delst   Ph: (301) 763-8000 x7274
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP   Fax: (301) 763-8545
Rm.207, 5200 Auth Rd.   Email: pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov
Camp Springs MD 20746

Subject: Re: IDL on VMS??
Posted by thompson on Mon, 13 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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"Harvey Rarback" <rarback@slac.stanford.edu> writes:

>   Folks,

> Is anybody else as upset as I am about Kodak's lack of support for OpenVMS
> after version 5.4? Considering the history of IDL on the platform and the
> still large number of scientists using VMS, it seems like a mistake to me.

> Any suggestions for getting Kodak to reconsider?

>   --Harvey

Just for the record, I would like to say that we still require our IDL software
to run under OpenVMS as well as Unix/Windows/MacOS, and will continue to do so
for some years into the future. Two of the instruments aboard the Solar and
Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) satellite use OpenVMS for their operational
systems, and IDL is an integral part of the operations software for at least
one of those systems, and I believe the other one as well. We also are aware
of sites which still depend on OpenVMS for data analysis.

William Thompson

Subject: Re: IDL on VMS??
Posted by LC's No-Spam Newsread on Mon, 13 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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On Fri, 10 Nov 2000, David Fanning wrote:

> Well, at one time we were *all* on VMS. (Or, at least
> those of us with gray hairs were, Harvey.) But that's

Or no hair at all. :-) Some of us were on IBM too ....

Subject: Re: IDL on VMS??
Posted by Ian Dean on Mon, 13 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Harvey Rarback wrote:

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> version 5.4? Considering the history of IDL on the platform and the still
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> number of scientists using VMS, it seems like a mistake to me.
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> Any suggestions for getting Kodak to reconsider?
>
>   --Harvey

We have a large application that has run under VMS since 1980s (mainly using
Fortran 77). The system was upgraded a few years ago when we moved to OpenVMS
on Alpha. At this stage, we took the opportunity to rewrite the graphics in
IDL and have never looked back.
Now we are being limited in moving forward (in the IDL direction). Moving to
another platform or OS is not really an option.

We are not very happy bunnies.
Regards,
    Ian

Subject: Re: IDL on VMS??
Posted by Joseph B. Gurman on Wed, 15 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <MPG.14760e1ef507058a989c78@news.frii.com>,
davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:

> Harvey Rarback (rarback@slac.stanford.edu) writes:
>
>> Is anybody else as upset as I am about Kodak's lack of support for
>> OpenVMS after
>> version 5.4? Considering the history of IDL on the platform and the
>> still large
>> number of scientists using VMS, it seems like a mistake to me.
>
> Well, at one time we were *all* on VMS. (Or, at least
> those of us with gray hairs were, Harvey.) But that's
> another sad story.
>
> How many OpenVMS new licenses do you suppose were
> sold last year? I'm sure it eventually gets to the
> point where the numbers don't even begin to justify
> the effort. I know nothing about the facts in this
> case, but I do know that in the past RSI has always
> gone WAY beyond when the numbers made sense before
> yanking a version.
>

> Cheers,
>
> David

    I truly doubt the new licenses support IDL development, though they
certainly do give RSI a view of what platforms to concentrate on.

    I'd be more interested in the revenue flow from maintenance
agreements per platform. In the interests of openness, I will divulge
that 5 of our 21 licenses are on OpenVMS platforms, including some with
unlimited, node-locked licenses (read "expensive to maintain").
Maintaining those licenses represents 35% of our ~ $14K annual
maintenance burden, and while I'm relieved to be able to do without it,
I wonder whether or not there are enough OpenVMS IDL licenses out there
with maintenance agreements to support one (or one-half full-time
equivalent) support programmer at RSI.

    If I were to speculate, I'd guess the one OpenVMS guru/guruette has
decided not to work for Kodak but strike out for new work, and OVMS
applications programmers are getting harder to find each year....
outside of old folks' homes, that is. "Why, I remember our first VAX...."

    None of which means we'll be dropping any OpenVMS machines anytime
soon, since as Bill Thompson pointed out, we use them for spacecraft
instrument ops, but it may mean we never buy another maintenance upgrade
to IDL again. $300 for tech support per year sounds about right. Hope
RSI is happy to lose our $13K of support business per year, since it
makes more sense to keep our unix, MAc, &c. machines running the same
version as our OVMS ones for compatibility, unless a specific new
feature makes it worthwhile to change (haven't seen many lately, but I'm
hoping for better AltiVec support in the Mac OS X version).

    I'd like to thank David Stern and the RSI team for 20 years of
excellent product and support. It's been real.

        Joe Gurman

--
| Joseph B. Gurman, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Solar Physics
| Branch, Greenbelt MD 20771 USA / Federal employees are still
| prohibited from holding opinions while at work. Therefore, any
| opinions expressed herein are somebody else's.

Subject: Re: IDL on VMS??
Posted by stevens on Thu, 16 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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In <3A13DFC0.4B83D7BE@def.com>, Laurie Finn:

|> You could use PV-Wave (they still develop their OpenVMS versions)

[Snip...]

FWIW, I agree, and have found it an excellent graphical analysis environment:

   http://www.vni.com/products/wave/newoverview.html

--

Regards, Weird (Harold Stevens) * IMPORTANT EMAIL INFO FOLLOWS *
Pardon the bogus email domain (dseg etc.) in place for spambots.
Really it's (wyrd) at raytheon, dotted with com. DO NOT SPAM IT.
Standard Disclaimer: These are my opinions not Raytheon Company.

Subject: Re: IDL on VMS??
Posted by Laurie Finn on Thu, 16 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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You could use PV-Wave (they still develop their OpenVMS versions)

Harvey Rarback wrote:
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>   --Harvey

Subject: Re: IDL on VMS??
Posted by Hugh Evans on Mon, 04 Dec 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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As a user of both IDL and PVWave (I choose which depending on what side of
the bed I wake up - and which license I can grab), I can recommend them
both. Although, porting from IDL -> Wave or Wave->IDL is becoming more and
more problematic as their functionality and syntax (in particular

structures) gradually diverge, a constant headache.

Unfortunately, we're slowly being booted off our OpenVMS machines to the considerably less reliable (and from what I've seen slower) Sun Unix machines. I wish just once that the standard for computing would err on the technically excellent side instead of the lowest common denominator (see Mac vx Windows, VMS vs Unix, Unix vs. WNT, ADA vs C/C++) -- although there is the exception to the rule (I'm becoming fond of Java).

Please do not reply to this, it is not intended as a trawl, or flame generator, just my humble opinion which no-one has been able to provide a reasonable argument to warrent any change (NOT to be taken as a challenge). :-)

Regards,

Hugh

"Harold Stevens ** PLEASE SEE SIG **" <stevens@sp27.dseg.ti.com> wrote in message news:xVRQ5.62$y23.1709@dfw-service2.ext.raytheon.com...
> In <3A13DFC0.4B83D7BE@def.com>, Laurie Finn:
>
> |> You could use PV-Wave (they still develop their OpenVMS versions)
>
> [Snip...]
>
> FWIW, I agree, and have found it an excellent graphical analysis
environment:
>
>   http://www.vni.com/products/wave/newoverview.html
>
> --
>