
Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2001 16:19:23 GMT

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"Richard Adams" <r.j.adams@bath.ac.uk> wrote in message
news:B7E745FF.24FCE%r.j.adams@bath.ac.uk...

> Dear All,

>

> Word here on the street is that despite early announcements of support

> for OSX there is now doubt that it will be supported.

Who told you that? I have heard a totally opposite thing: OSX version is
going to be the major release of IDL for Macs, and it will fully utilize the
Velocity engine.

Pavel

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2001 16:57:02 GMT

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Richard Adams wrote:

>

> Dear All,

>

> Word here on the street is that despite early announcements of support

> for OSX there is now doubt that it will be supported. This must surely mean

> the end of IDL on the Macintosh. I for one - with a lab full of Macs and an

> admittedly small but growing number of IDL licences - think this is major

> bad news. The potential of an adult operating system (OSX/unix) and a great

> analysis environment (IDL) looked like a rosy future for our work. Am I the

> only one who thinks that dropping Mac support would be a bad move? If others

> feel the same then should we at least lobby for continued support for

> Macintosh computers?

>

> With best regards,

>

Hmm, this press release from March sure tells a different story:

<http://www.rsinc.com/pr/detail.cfm?PressreleaseID=48&cid 110907&s=514>

also, the beta announcement in early June stated:

"However, this will be a very limited release as our efforts are focused
towards the IDL5.5 MACOSX release."

So this would be a significant change of story. <PURE_CONJECTURE> My guess is they might have been overambitious about their full re-write for OSX, and are now faced with delaying 5.5 a few months to work out the kinks in their (essentially from scratch) version, vs. just letting it slide until 5.6 (or will it be 6.0?). </PURE_CONJECTURE> I really doubt they will drop Mac support entirely, especially after going on stage with Steve at the WWDC in 1999, and raving about Altivec.

JD

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2001 17:12:53 GMT

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In article <9psjm1\$Ifn\$1@mwrns.noaa.gov>, Pavel Romashkin <pavel.romashkin@noaa.gov> wrote:

> "Richard Adams" <r.j.adams@bath.ac.uk> wrote in message
> news:B7E745FF.24FCE%r.j.adams@bath.ac.uk...
>> Dear All,
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> Who told you that? I have heard a totally opposite thing: OSX version is
> going to be the major release of IDL for Macs, and it will fully utilize the
> Velocity engine.

I went looking for the RSI press release from last spring announcing OS X support, but it seems to have disappeared from their web page. Then I found the "What's New in IDL 5.5" page.

<http://www.rsinc.com/idl/whatsnew.cfm>

Buried at the bottom is a table of current and future support and the following note:

NOTE: RSI will be unable to provide IDL on the MAC OS X platform as previously planned.

This is really a disaster for us. We have purchased new Macs based on RSI's previous press release promising OS X support. I am extremely disappointed that they are breaking their promise, but I expect that we are simply screwed.

How about at least providing us with a Mac version that will run from

the command line on OS X (using X-Windows)? That should be a relatively straightforward port.

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2001 17:59:17 GMT

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I know it's bad form to reply to one's own posting, but what the heck ...

I would like to suggest that everyone who would like to see IDL run under Mac OS X contact RSI directly and ask them to reconsider their decision to drop OS X support. A snail-mail letter will likely have more effect, but please e-mail rather than doing nothing.

Contact Information:
Research Systems, Inc.
4990 Pearl East Circle
Boulder, CO 80301
USA

info@rsinc.com

I tracked down the original press release and have copied it below.

Ken

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Bernice Borrelli Matthew Powell
Eastman Kodak Company Research Systems, Inc.
716-726-5214 (voice) 303-413-3906 (voice)
716-253-5725 (fax) 303-786-9909 (fax)
Bernice.borrelli@kodak.com mpowell@rsinc.com
Editor contacts only
Research Systems, Inc. Announces IDL for Mac OS X

First major rewrite of IDL since the original Mac version in 1993

BOULDER, Colo. - March 21, 2001 - Research Systems, Inc., a leading global developer of data visualization and application development software, announced today they plan to release IDL[®] 5.1, the Interactive

Data Language, for Mac OS X.

"Both companies offer world class solutions and we feel IDL on Mac OS X will enable our customers to solve their problems and achieve their goals faster and easier than before," said Mike Scally, CEO of Research Systems. "Mac OS X brings the speed, stability and power of Unix to IDL's Macintosh users. In combination with the G4 processor with Velocity Engine and hardware OpenGL support on cutting edge graphic accelerators, IDL on Mac OS X is a best-of-class scientific visualization application."

"Built on an open-source Unix-based foundation and offering features such as OpenGL for spectacular 3D graphics, Mac OS X delivers unprecedented stability and is the most technically advanced personal computer operating system ever," said Clent Richardson, Apple's vice president of Worldwide Developer Relations. "We are thrilled with Research Systems' support of Mac OS X, and IDL on Mac OS X will be a visualization application the scientific community will appreciate."

Research Systems' other products built on IDL will also support Mac OS X including ENVI (Environment for Visualizing Images), RiverTools (hydrology and terrain analysis), and VIP (Visual IDL Programming). This Mac OS X port will be based on IDL and plans include a fully native reimplement of IDL for Mac OS X using the Cocoa frameworks. It will provide increased performance and stability with plans for support of the Aqua interface, multi-processing, and extensive Velocity Engine integration. Compatibility for previous IDL versions on all platforms will be retained, allowing .pro code for Windows to run on the Mac with faster speed.

IDL for Mac OS X will also leverage the BSD underpinnings of Mac OS X and provide support for some of the best features available in the Unix operating system without the complexity of Unix programming. Some of these features include preemptive multi-processing, protected memory, networking ability and high-speed I/O.

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2001 20:35:36 GMT

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I must say that I am extremely disappointed to learn that RSI is no longer planning to support Mac OS X and encourage everyone who shares my feelings to CC all complaints and newsgroup discussions on this topic directly to Mathew Powell and his coworkers at RSI.

Mathew Powell <mpowell@rsinc.com>
PR Manager

Research Systems
Boulder, CO

As for myself, I am also forwarding this news to friends at Mathorks and Wavemetrics as there will undoubtedly be an opportunity for data analysis/visualization packages on OS X. While I quite enjoyed using IDL and have found it to be an excellent analysis tool, I am now planning to halt my IDL development and begin working in C/C++/F95 again with NCAR GKS and Gnuplot. I will also no longer be supporting the IDL code (including a few widely distributed DLMS) I have written-- to those who have copies, please accept my sincerest apology but I am in the 2nd year of my D.Phil. and don't have time to support software that I am no longer planning to use.

To put it mildly, to learn that OS X will not be supported is a real problem for me. Luckily, I put off my personal IDL license purchase -- choosing to wait until the OS X beta appeared. My major requirement for any commercial numerical analysis program I use is that it work on most (if not all) of the major operating systems. Personally, I need to have code which works on my Macintosh laptop and departmental Linux machines. While I usually avoid running the various windows OS's, support for this is required as many colleagues use my code under windows.

I don't usually relay emails from RSI to the group, but in this case I am making an exception. Included below is an email I received just over a month ago:

```
-----  
Date: Wed, 5 Sep 2001 13:52:29 -0600  
From: Matthew Powell <mpowell@rsinc.com>  
To: 'Randall Skelton' <rskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk>  
Cc: Clark Coffey <ccoffey@rsinc.com>, Harold Cline <harold@rsinc.com>  
Subject: RE: IDL on Mac OS X
```

Hi Randall:

Thanks for your message.
We are planning on releasing IDL for Mac OS X in the 1st quarter of 2002.
Thank you for your interest in our technology.

Matthew

```
-----
```

Also, a message from May 2001 regarding some details of the OS X implementation:

"Will the new version of IDL for OS X use the native BSD (i.e. unix) underpinnings? At the moment I use socket libraries for unix as well as

multi-threaded (POSIX) C routines for some calculations. Will these be supported?"

Date: Tue, 8 May 2001 16:08:50 -0600
From: Matthew Powell <mpowell@rsinc.com>
To: 'Randall Skelton' <rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: IDL for OS X

Hi Randall:
My apologies for the delay in responding, and thanks for your message.
The answer to both of your questions is "yes".
I hope this is what you wanted to hear.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Cordially,

Matthew

Being an optimist, I hope that this is merely a delay due to the present economic conditions and not a cancellation of the entire RSI OS X product line. IDL was, in my opinion, the best cross-platform analysis and visualization package available.

Sincerely,
Randall Skelton

University of Oxford rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk (email)
Atmospheric, Oceanic & Planetary Physics +44/0 1865 558 637 (home)
Clarendon Laboratory +44/0 1865 272 904 (office)
Parks Road, Oxford, UK, OX1 3PU

On Mon, 8 Oct 2001, K. Bowman wrote:

[snip]

> I went looking for the RSI press release from last spring announcing OS
> X support, but it seems to have disappeared from their web page. Then
> I found the "What's New in IDL 5.5" page.
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> relatively straightforward port.
>
> Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Mac OSX
Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 04:14:29 GMT
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I am extremely sorry to say this, but it appears that Mac OSX is dropped as well as Mac development for other versions of OS as well. I have very little faith in success of complaining to RSI, because it must be Kodak who called to cancel Mac. But obviously, if we don't complain, this is how it will be. I know, not everyone liked my Mac related humor, and if IDL for Mac goes, not everyone will be at loss (besides Mac developers at RSI). But this is an alarming precedent. If they can so easily drop a platform, it is pretty scary, in my opinion. But again, these days our lives themselves cost so little - who cares about software :-(

Sorry for a sad posting.
Cheers,
Pavel

Subject: Re: Mac OSX
Posted by [Ian Dean](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 08:28:53 GMT
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Richard Adams wrote:

>
> Dear All,
>
> Word here on the street is that despite early announcements of support
> for OSX there is now doubt that it will be supported. This must surely mean
> the end of IDL on the Macintosh. I for one - with a lab full of Macs and an

- > admittedly small but growing number of IDL licences - think this is major
- > bad news. The potential of an adult operating system (OSX/unix) and a great
- > analysis environment (IDL) looked like a rosy future for our work. Am I the
- > only one who thinks that dropping Mac support would be a bad move? If others
- > feel the same then should we at least lobby for continued support for
- > Macintosh computers?

Don't forget all the VMS users out here who have to stay with 5.4 or move to another platform.

This is really upsetting for us, as we are about to start a new project that would take advantage of a huge amount of IDL code from other projects.

So we either continue with IDL 5.4 and reduce the development time (not a popular option to use out of date software), or we develop our software in some other language(as yet undefined) this means re-inventing the wheel and will likely result in an overspend in the development phase of the project (no popular either!!)

It also means that we have to live with the bugs/shortcomings/undesirable features in 5.4. RSI have agreed that such effects exist, but we have to live with them, because they will only be fixed at the enct release which we will not be getting.

Sorry for the rant...
I'm not a happy bunny...

Regards,
Ian

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 14:26:19 GMT

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Randall Skelton wrote:

- > I must say that I am extremely disappointed to learn that RSI is no longer
- > planning to support Mac OS X and encourage everyone who shares my feelings
- > to CC all complaints and newsgroup discussions on this topic directly to
- > Mathew Powell and his coworkers at RSI.

[snip]

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> Subject: RE: IDL on Mac OS X
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> Hi Randall:
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> Thanks for your message.
> We are planning on releasing IDL for Mac OS X in the 1st quarter of 2002.
> Thank you for your interest in our technology.
>
> Matthew
> -----

Before we get too dispirited, has RSI said that IDL will *never* be supported on OS X, or just that IDL 5.5 won't be supported on OS X in the fall of 2001? The email from Matt Powell says a version (5.5?) for OS X will be released in 2002.

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
<http://www.gumley.com/>

Subject: Re: Mac OSX
Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 15:02:26 GMT
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Pavel Romashkin wrote:

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> well as Mac development for other versions of OS as well. I have very little
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> But this is an alarming precedent. If they can so easily drop a platform, it
> is pretty scary, in my opinion.
> But again, these days our lives themselves cost so little - who cares about
> software :-(
>

It does look like the worst is true, Pavel, and I feel for you and for all Mac users who took RSI/Kodak at face value when as recently as early September they indicated all was on track for a phenomenal new OS X release, not to mention their PR-laden joint appearances with Jobs et. al. at Worldwide Developer Conferences in support of PowerPC Altivec technology as an extremely promising new hardware platform.

The fact that they would so casually dismiss a product which they had built up to such extravagant heights, disregarding the impact their misleading emphasis on a new MacOSX version had, is frankly quite disturbing. There are, I'm sure, not a few people who have altered their development and purchasing plans in line with RSI/Kodak's seemingly strong commitment to Mac IDL, and the modern new MacOSX operating system.

I have it directly from former RSI/Kodak developer Thierry Faucounau (the sole Mac IDL developer), that this was a political/business decision, and that the OSX release was well on track, with no impending technical hurdles. He was recently relieved of his position in concert with this apparently hastily-made decision.

With respect to the VMS IDL users who have been burned, remember that your platform was on its way out at RSI for a long time, and that ample notice was given. This is the completely opposite situation: a new product which was hyped with multiple press releases and significant developer support, and which was promised to be "a best-of-class scientific visualization application" is quietly pulled from release without so much as a warning, the sole Mac IDL developer is laid off, and notification is made in a small footnote to the "What's New" page.

Did they think this would slip under our radar screen?

I for one am significantly re-evaluating my future use of IDL as a consistent cross-platform solution, and I would urge you to do the same, and at the very least let RSI/Kodak know if their careless and negligent business practices have affected you.

JD

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Noam R. Izenberg](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 15:59:39 GMT

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I Just called RSI Tech support today and confirmed the news. IDL 5.5 will be supported on Mac OS

9.x. but OS-X support has stopped. Other items:

The tech help person was sympathetic, but suprised meby informing that they had received a total of

3 e-mails and 1 phone call (mine) on the matter so far. While all were passionate, that kind of response from a community will get exactly nothing. I would reiterate other posts to contact RSI (and Kodak) and state your case. I will be trying to contact Kodak next.

I asked the techs opinion and she said that the only real chance of re-instating the development would come if pretty much all Mac users of IDL (and better yet _potential_ mac users of IDL made their feelings known.

I am grateful to be back to mack after 5 years in the PC desert, and was eagerly awaiting native OS-X

IDL. My disappointment is rather keen.

So, have at it. Please.

Noam Izenberg
JHU/APL Space Department

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 16:24:01 GMT

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JD Smith wrote:

>

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> (the sole Mac IDL developer), that this was a political/business
> decision, and that the OSX release was well on track, with no impeding
> technical hurdles. He was recently relieved of his position in concert
> with this apparently hastily-made decision.

I heard from Thierry, too. He is indeed THE expert on the Mac IDL, and more than once casually solved problems I was facing, just by a one-line email message. I have indications that OSX version has had advancements over other platforms in widget implementation and many other aspects. It would be nice if RSI at least, just out of respect to Thierry, released the beta he has created, to let people see what they could have had. Oh, licensing? Release it as a 7-second demo mode, of course :-(
I do have IDL on Unix and W2K, too, but this move makes me hesitant about proceeding with using it. I will probably keep using IDL on my Macs, too. But my news posts will be getting outdated version wise pretty soon.

Pavel

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 16:49:21 GMT

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On Tue, 9 Oct 2001, JD Smith wrote:

> I for one am significantly re-evaluating my future use of IDL as a

- > consistent cross-platform solution, and I would urge you to do the same,
- > and at the very least let RSI/Kodak know if their careless and negligent
- > business practices have affected you.

I'm with you. The handling of this was absolutely terrible and while I can understand that tough business decisions are needed in time of difficult economics, RSI should have (at a minimum) made a formal announcement to their Macintosh users. As per my last message, I am have halted my IDL development as a direct result of this. Moreover, I am urging our VMS/linux/Macintosh department users (site license of 100+) to reconsider our allegiance to RSI/Kodak. I give a talk on atmospheric retrieval simulations on Thursday and had planned to use IDL to do it interactively... I've since made transparencies and obscured the fonts to ensure that nobody knows it was originally done with IDL. Student exercises were originally going to be done using IDL but I am now in the process of converting scripts/functions into Matlab (the folks at Mathworks were happy to give me a demo license for the 50+ lab computers). In short, I'm really ticked off about this!

This may be one of the last times I am able to thank you, David, Pavel, Craig and Jim P. for helping to explain IDL over the past year-- and to think, I was just starting to understand IDL objects...

Cheers,
Randall

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 17:44:57 GMT

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"Noam R. Izenberg" <noam.izenberg@jhuapl.edu> wrote in message news:3BC31EEB.CAA42C47@jhuapl.edu...

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Does anyone else agree that PC and Unix IDL users *also* benefit from the fact that IDL reaches to the Mac platform? To my mind, knowing that code I develop on PC can (in general) run on Mac as well adds value to my work, and

I'd think it reasonable to consider some of PC and Unix licence/maintenance fees as going to support Mac development.

Cheers,

--

-Dick

Dick Jackson / dick@d-jackson.com
D-Jackson Software Consulting / http://www.d-jackson.com
Calgary, Alberta, Canada / +1-403-242-7398 / Fax: 241-7392

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 17:54:38 GMT

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Dick Jackson wrote:

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> I'd think it reasonable to consider some of PC and Unix licence/maintenance
> fees as going to support Mac development.

It is not even this that I think is particularly bad. It is that I am not sure anymore if the stuff I worked on will in a few months be useful to *anybody*.

Although we all still have IDL in some form. Some of us even run 4.*, right? And if your license runs out, there's always hackers.com...

Cheers,
Pavel

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Noam R. Izenberg](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 18:08:40 GMT

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> develop on PC can (in general) run on Mac as well adds value to my work, and
> I'd think it reasonable to consider some of PC and Unix licence/maintenance
> fees as going to support Mac development.
>

Well, _I_ certainly agree. I did exactly that last week. Wrote up a quick and dirty image proc procedure for some calibration work on my Powerbook and ported it over to an HP system for use there. Took just a few minutes. No question that multiple environments can and do benefit from one another. So as long as you're not a dyed-in-the-wool Anti-Mac-er, other platform users comments to RSI will almost certainly add additional weight.

And another thought. What other platforms would RSI/Kodak consider so marginal that having one dedicated programmer and associated soft/hardware resources for development would be considered a bad business risk?

I've sent my feelings to both RSI and Kodak, trying to explain (among other things) why I think the decision was plain Bad Business. It was only pebble in the pond, but how else can you start making a wave?

Noam

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 19:17:36 GMT

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A few points on the Mac OS X issue (that I am also making to RSI).

1. Due to steadily improving price/performance ratios, I expect that we will continue to move away from proprietary Unix solutions (SGI, Sun, IBM, DEC ... I mean Compaq) to Linux and Mac OS. I was planning to *convert Unix licenses to Mac licenses*.
2. I am now concerned that Linux, AIX, IRIX, etc. versions of IDL will also disappear (with no warning), perhaps one at a time, and that we will be left with only a Windows version. I would guess that AIX and IRIX will be the first to go. If that seems unlikely to you, consider RSI's public statements of Mac support. Their about face is so blatant that I am not inclined to have confidence in future RSI statements of direction. (We have no history with Windows here, and I expect that we would switch tools before we would switch to Windows.)
3. At present I primarily use IDL remotely on Unix from my Mac via X-Windows. Compared to building a full OS X product, it should be *easy* to port the Linux version of IDL to OS X (which is based on FreeBSD). We could then run it from the command line and use X Windows on the Mac. That would be relatively painless for them and for us. I would rather use my own editor anyway (who wouldn't?). If I have to

use the development environment, I could run it under X Windows.

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

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> the beta he has created, to let people see what they could have had. Oh,
> licensing? Release it as a 7-second demo mode, of course :-(

Better still, release the source code with an appropriate license and let
us hack our way to IDL for Mac OS X!

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

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- > Craig and Jim P. for helping to explain IDL over the past year-- and to
- > think, I was just starting to understand IDL objects...

Here's a funny quote from one of the topmost linked stories on the rsinc.com webpage, titled: "IDL Helps Teach Children With Hands-On Universe":

Dr. Pennypacker knew he needed a powerful application that was simple enough for even a kindergartner to use, and was based on technology that is well-supported, highly extensible and compatible with both PCs and Macs. He selected IDL...

What hath pointy-head marketoids wrought?

JD

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Paul Woodford](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2001 02:44:14 GMT

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In article <3BC31182.4C1B85BD@astro.cornell.edu>,

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- > I for one am significantly re-evaluating my future use of IDL as a
- > consistent cross-platform solution, and I would urge you to do the same,
- > and at the very least let RSI/Kodak know if their careless and negligent
- > business practices have affected you.

My organization has, I think, 14 licenses. I have been accumulating probably three to four licenses per year over the past couple of years. Only four of our licenses are for our Macs, but RSI has effectively lost me as a customer with this decision. I will not be purchasing more licenses, and I doubt we will renew our support contract. The irony is that the Mathworks lost us to RSI in the same way when they dropped Matlab development for the Mac. I will be letting my salesperson know all this tomorrow.

What do people suggest as alternatives? I was looking at OpenDX a while back - has anyone here used that? I would think it could be ported to Mac OS X with a X windows interface without too much pain.

Paul Woodford

Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2001 07:34:57 GMT

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"K. Bowman" wrote:

>
> A few points on the Mac OS X issue (that I am also making to RSI).
>
> 1. Due to steadily improving price/performance ratios, I expect that
> we will continue to move away from proprietary Unix solutions (SGI,
> Sun, IBM, DEC ... I mean Compaq) to Linux and Mac OS. I was planning
> to *convert Unix licenses to Mac licenses*.
>
> 2. I am now concerned that Linux, AIX, IRIX, etc. versions of IDL will
> also disappear (with no warning), perhaps one at a time, and that we
> will be left with only a Windows version. I would guess that AIX and
> IRIX will be the first to go. If that seems unlikely to you, consider
> RSI's public statements of Mac support. Their about face is so blatant
> that I am not inclined to have confidence in future RSI statements of
> direction. (We have no history with Windows here, and I expect that we
> would switch tools before we would switch to Windows.)

Dear Ken

last year I met David Stern in Darmstadt. This was before the idl5.4 release.

At this time I was informed that idl5.4 for AIX will be the last Version. One of the reasons is the migration from IBM to linux. I remember that several times it was discussed how difficult it is to support more and more platforms or older and older platforms.

We ourselves are in a process to migrate from AIX to linux PCs too so this statement was bad for us but not as bad as it could be. Then with the idl5.4 release installed on AIX everytime idl was started we got a message that this is the last supported version for AIX.

We and I believe some more others asked them to build IDL5.5 for AIX too and you are seeing the result. IDL5.5 will be build for AIX too.

There was no discussion about AIX and IDL in this newsgroup as I remember. I hope you all give your arguments to RSI too.

regards

Reimar

--

Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-1)
Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/>

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a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

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read something about linux / windows
<http://www.suse.de/de/news/hotnews/MS.html>

Subject: Re: Mac OSX
Posted by [colinr](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2001 11:57:12 GMT
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On Tue, 09 Oct 2001 17:44:57 GMT,
Dick Jackson <dick@d-jackson.com> wrote:

> Does anyone else agree that PC and Unix IDL users *also* benefit from the
> fact that IDL reaches to the Mac platform? To my mind, knowing that code I
> develop on PC can (in general) run on Mac as well adds value to my work, and
> I'd think it reasonable to consider some of PC and Unix licence/maintenance
> fees as going to support Mac development.

Absolutely. I don't use a Mac myself but I share code with colleagues who do.

--

Colin Rosenthal
Astrophysics Institute
University of Oslo

Subject: Re: Mac OSX
Posted by [Dennis Boccippio](#) on Fri, 12 Oct 2001 14:20:27 GMT
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In article <[tIGw7.306\\$AE5.5841@shaw-ty1](#)>,

"Dick Jackson" <dick@d-jackson.com> wrote:

```
>> I asked the techs opinion and she said that
>> the only real chance of re-instating the development
>> would come if pretty much all Mac users of IDL
>> (and better yet _potential_ mac users of IDL made
>> their feelings known.
>
> Does anyone else agree that PC and Unix IDL users *also* benefit from the
> fact that IDL reaches to the Mac platform? To my mind, knowing that code I
> develop on PC can (in general) run on Mac as well adds value to my work, and
> I'd think it reasonable to consider some of PC and Unix licence/maintenance
> fees as going to support Mac development.
>
```

Absolutely - in fact, knowing that IDL code is more or less cross-platform deployable was a major factor for us in deciding to develop and release in-house IDL analysis code to our external users. RSI's prior strong track record on stability and cross-platform support *had* been a significant factor in deciding to commit significant hardware, skill training, and code development time to IDL. A midcourse platform support change radically alters the company's reputation and future viability as a solution-of-choice, IMHO...

- Dennis Boccippio, NASA/MSFC SD-60
