

---

Subject: Free IDL

Posted by [M. Vountas](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2001 08:38:07 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Dear NG,

I am using IDL/Wave since 1993 for vizualisation purposes in the field of space imaging and atmospheric science.

Since then the pricing (including schools and universities) increased drastically.

We are spending now more then 10.000 Euro for about 20 licenses (the reseller told us that this is not the normal price but a special bargain- what a joke).

I am seriously thinking about leaving the IDL/Wave track and go for something cheaper or free software. Of course I would like to move to something that has some affinity to IDL but this does not necessarily must be the case (a colleague told me that something like scilab, a free matlab derivative might be helpful). On the other hand I read about gdl (a free IDL developed at sourcefourge), which is announced to be compatibel to IDL, but on sourcefourge they don't seem to make progress since 2000- This sounds not too promising...

At least one thing is clear to me and my colleagues, we don't want to support such (monopolist) pricing policy by still buying IDL, PV-Wave and related products as long as we can avoid it. And much more important: we cannot afford it any more!

I would like to ask the NG what is your opinion about the pricing? Have you made the same experience? And, if so, what are your proposals to prevent from being trapped in this way? Or do we only have the wrong reseller ;-)

Best wishes

Marco

---

Subject: Re: Free IDL

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2001 16:48:28 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

"M. Vountas" wrote:

>

> I would like to ask the NG what is your opinion about the pricing? Have  
> you made the same experience? And, if so, what are your proposals to  
> prevent from being trapped in this way?

I wouldn't worry about the pricing. It is fair, and aimed at keeping the profit margin above the total bankruptcy. If licenses were cheaper, IDL would not be a multiplatform tool it is now. Customer is the most important consideration in this matter. You are not a customer anymore, since you can't afford it, which is too bad, and your opinion is not of concern.

Do you guys think I can apply for a vice PR or marketing position at Kodak/RSI?

Cheers,

Pavel

---

Subject: Re: Free IDL

Posted by [Mark Rivers](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2001 13:16:02 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

M. Vountas <SPAM2vountas@iup.physik.uni-bremen> wrote in message news:3BD7CF6F.4A8D8AC@iup.physik.uni-bremen...

> Dear NG,

>

> I am using IDL/Wave since 1993 for vizualisation purposes in the field  
> of space imaging and atmospheric science.

>

> Since then the pricing (including schools and universities) increased  
> drastically.

> We are spending now more then 10.000 Euro for about 20 licenses (the  
> reseller told us that this is not the normal price but a special  
> bargain- what a joke).

The price for a University "department" license in the US is \$2,000 annually for 50 licenses. This is what I pay and I think it is a fair deal. There are plenty of less powerful packages that cost more than \$40 per seat per year even for universities. These 50 licenses are floating, so we use them for Windows, Linux and various Unix systems.

Mark

---

Subject: Re: Free IDL

Posted by [Bernard K.](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2001 15:18:36 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

did you really mean \$2000 for 50 licenses?

I am paying \$300 a year for 1 mac license...

(from RSI France)

Bernard.

In article <vndC7.148\$N4.4775@news.uchicago.edu>, Mark Rivers  
<rivers@cars.uchicago.edu> wrote:

> M. Vountas <SPAM2vountas@iup.physik.uni-bremen> wrote in message  
> news:3BD7CF6F.4A8D8AC@iup.physik.uni-bremen...  
>> Dear NG,  
>>  
>> I am using IDL/Wave since 1993 for vizualisation purposes in the field  
>> of space imaging and atmospheric science.  
>>  
>> Since then the pricing (including schools and universities) increased  
>> drastically.  
>> We are spending now more then 10.000 Euro for about 20 licenses (the  
>> reseller told us that this is not the normal price but a special  
>> bargain- what a joke).  
>  
> The price for a University "department" license in the US is \$2,000 annually  
> for 50 licenses. This is what I pay and I think it is a fair deal. There  
> are plenty of less powerful packages that cost more than \$40 per seat per  
> year even for universities. These 50 licenses are floating, so we use them  
> for Windows, Linux and various Unix systems.  
>  
> Mark

---

---

Subject: Re: Free IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2001 15:30:50 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Bernard K. (bknaepen@'skip'mac.com) writes:

> did you really mean \$2000 for 50 licenses?  
> I am paying \$300 a year for 1 mac license...  
> (from RSI France)

Oh, oh. It's the airline fare wars all over again.

"What do you mean you paid \$300 for that seat!?  
I paid \$1200!"

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I'm sure the French have

to pay for more holidays than the Americans. :-)

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

---

---

Subject: Re: Free IDL

Posted by [Bernard K.](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2001 16:15:13 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I guess having to pay more for local \*support\* is ok if this is needed to cover higher operation costs.

However, I am not convinced this is justified when only buying a software license. The bulk of the costs there are associated with development which is done in the US so I see no reason to charge customers a different amount according to their locations (aside from handling costs).

If I don't want support, why can't I just buy my license from RSI US? (not forgetting to pay appropriate taxes)

Bernard.

In article <MPG.16432f968dd7859698972e@news.frii.com>, David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Bernard K. (bknaepen@'skip'mac.com) writes:

>

>> did you really mean \$2000 for 50 licenses?

>> I am paying \$300 a year for 1 mac license...

>> (from RSI France)

>

> Oh, oh. It's the airline fare wars all over again.

>

> "What do you mean you paid \$300 for that seat!?"

> I paid \$1200!"

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

> P.S. Let's just say I'm sure the French have

> to pay for more holidays than the Americans. :-)

---

---

Subject: Re: Free IDL

Posted by [nobody@nowhere.com](mailto:nobody@nowhere.com) (S) on Fri, 26 Oct 2001 18:47:32 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Fri, 26 Oct 2001 08:16:02 -0500, Mark Rivers <rivers@cars.uchicago.edu> wrote:

>  
> The price for a University "department" license in the US is \$2,000 annually  
> for 50 licenses. This is what I pay and I think it is a fair deal. There  
> are plenty of less powerful packages that cost more than \$40 per seat per  
> year even for universities. These 50 licenses are floating, so we use them  
> for Windows, Linux and various Unix systems.

>  
> Mark

>  
>  
>

Please tell me you're talking about the maintenance fee! My licenses were at least \$1500 each (single user) and about \$200-300 /year maintenance. If that's your actual license fee, that looks like a great deal! Even for maintenance only, it's still a good deal.

--  
Steve S.

steve@NOSPAMmailaps.org  
remove NOSPAM before replying

---

---

Subject: Re: Free IDL

Posted by [Mark Rivers](#) on Sat, 27 Oct 2001 05:13:13 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Steve Smith<steven\_smith> <nobody@nowhere.com> wrote in message news:slrn9tjbpu.ugj.nobody@pooh.nrel.gov...

> Please tell me you're talking about the maintenance fee! My licenses were  
at  
> least \$1500 each (single user) and about \$200-300 /year maintenance. If  
that's  
> your actual license fee, that looks like a great deal! Even for  
maintenance  
> only, it's still a good deal.

We paid a one-time fee of \$7,000 for a 50 seat department license, and the annual maintenance is \$2,000. This was a publicly advertised rate, not a special deal. I presume it is still available. It is for academic institutions only. They were also selling campus-wide licenses and single "lab" licenses for different rates.

Mark

---

---

Subject: Re: Free IDL

Posted by [Joseph B. Gurman](#) on Sun, 28 Oct 2001 05:18:51 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

In article <MPG.16432f968dd7859698972e@news.frii.com>, david@dfanning.com wrote:

> Bernard K. (bknaepen@'skip'mac.com) writes:  
>  
>> did you really mean \$2000 for 50 licenses?  
>> I am paying \$300 a year for 1 mac license...  
>> (from RSI France)  
>  
> Oh, oh. It's the airline fare wars all over again.  
>  
> "What do you mean you paid \$300 for that seat!?"  
> I paid \$1200!"  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
>  
> P.S. Let's just say I'm sure the French have  
> to pay for more holidays than the Americans. :-)

Heck, some of us would lunge at the chance to pay \$300 for maintenance on Mac OS X IDL.... We'd even promise not to use the license on fetes nationales.

But I digress.

Joe Gurman

---

---

Subject: Re: Free IDL

Posted by [Heiko Schellhorn](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2001 09:36:09 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi all

M. Vountas <SPAM2vountas@iup.physik.uni-bremen> wrote...

> Since then the pricing (including schools and universities) increased

- > drastically.
- > We are spending now more then 10.000 Euro for about 20 licenses (the
- > reseller told us that this is not the normal price but a special
- > bargain- what a joke).

I know this offer: It's named IDLLAB20 (only usable for teaching students, not for reseach purposes)

But Marco remember: The 10.000 \$ payment (1 Euro nearly 1 Dollar) you payed was only a advance payment. Soon you have to pay for the same licenses again 13.000 \$.

Finally the price of this so named "bargain" is nearly 23.000 \$

Mark rivers wrote ...

- > The price for a University "department" license in the US is \$2,000 annually
- > for 50 licenses.

That's a price there I dream from.

Here I write down a actual offer of Creaso (the one and only IDL-distributor for Germany).

And then say again it's a fair price....

10 licenses for 35.000,-- \$ (this includes a university-rabate of up to 60%)

10 licenses without rabate : 78.860,-- \$

There's also no rabate if I buy more licenses, so you can multiply the price with 5 so you'll get the price I have to pay for 50 university-licenses (175.000,-- \$ !!!!!!!)

- > This is what I pay and I think it is a fair deal.
- If I get once such a price I would be very happy.

- > These 50 licenses are floating, so we use them
  - > for Windows, Linux and various Unix systems.
- The licenses I wrote about too.

Greetings  
Heiko

--

-----  
Dipl. Inf. Heiko Schellhorn

|                                |                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| University of Bremen           | Room: NWI-W3140                                                                           |
| Inst. of Environmental Physics | Phone: +49(0)421 218 4080                                                                 |
| P.O. Box 33 04 40              | Fax: +49(0)421 218 4555                                                                   |
| D-28334 Bremen                 | Mail: <a href="mailto:schell@physik.uni-bremen.de">mailto:schell@physik.uni-bremen.de</a> |

Germany

www: <http://www.iup.physik.uni-bremen.de>  
<http://www.sciamachy.de>  
<http://www.geoscia.de>

---