Subject: Re: Open letter to RSI about dropping Alpha Tru64
Posted by Dave Greenwood on Thu, 25 Oct 2001 15:45:16 GMT

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In addition to the points made by William Thompson in his message, I'll
point out that the Alpha chip and Tru64 are not synonymous. While Compaq
announced the end of life for Alpha (in several years!), it also announced
that it plans to continue Tru64 by porting to Itanium. The point is that
it's Alpha - not Tru64 - that will disappear.

Ah - I don't know why I bother with this. My interest in IDL (and the
value of the maintenance contracts I manage) nosedived when RSI dropped
support for VMS.

Dave

Dave Greenwood   Email: Greenwoodde@ORNL.GOV
Oak Ridge National Lab   %STD-W-DISCLAIMER, I only speak for myself

Subject: Re: Open letter to RSI about dropping Alpha Tru64
Posted by colinr on Fri, 26 Oct 2001 08:47:07 GMT

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On 25 Oct 2001 14:44:17 GMT,
William Thompson <thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov> wrote:

<snip>

> I also question how accurately RSI can determine how many of their customers
> are using Tru64 Unix. Just before RSI made the announcement about dropping
> platforms, I had just put in a purchase order for yearly maintenance for our
> Tru64 and Windows platforms. However, many of our licenses are now floating
> licenses, and may not be properly accounted for as being used on Tru64
> platforms.

Bingo! We also run IDL on dozens of Tru64 machines, but as these are
floating licenses RSI has no idea about them.

--
Colin Rosenthal
Astrophysics Institute
University of Oslo

Subject: Re: Open letter to RSI about dropping Alpha Tru64
Posted by Joseph B. Gurman on Sun, 28 Oct 2001 05:14:17 GMT

In article <9rb7ub$593$3@readme.uio.no>, colin.rosenthal@astro.uio.no wrote:

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> William Thompson <thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov> wrote:
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>> licenses, and may not be properly accounted for as being used on Tru64
>> platforms.
>
> Bingo! We also run IDL on dozens of Tru64 machines, but as these are
> floating licenses RSI has no idea about them.

   We have a bunch, too, but I wonder if the raw number matters to RSI
--- the "business" question may be whether they can sell any _more_ next
year than this year, or even any more at all. Given the uncertain future
of Tru64 in an HP-Compaq merger, I can't say I blame RSI for this
one.... not that I'm not ticked off by it.

   Just as I was by the OpenVMS decision last year. And yes, there are
lots of VMS machines still running IDL, too. I suspect that there will
still be OpenVMS machines running IDL years after HP stops selling Tru64.

   Ah, well, at least IDL 5.2 still offers GIF support.

           Joe Gurman

Subject: Re: Open letter to RSI about dropping Alpha Tru64
Posted by Spade on Sun, 28 Oct 2001 05:49:58 GMT

> Because the core
> teams use IDL, universities and laboratories around the world who want to
use
> the data from these missions also purchase IDL. The strong support of IDL
by

I suspect that as the number of "core teams" who use IDL decrease, so too do the numbers of other users. Why would institutions run 50 licences for a program that their data supplier ins't using any more? Axing support for one platform could result in hundreds of users fleeing en-mass to other products! The loss of licence sales and support contracts due to this flow-on effect could mean that IDL might loose out very big in the end.

Have RSI/Kodak done their math? Is every user accounted for? Time will tell.

.spade.