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Subject: Re: Any update on OS X

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Sun, 17 Mar 2002 16:44:19 GMT

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In article <a6sfoe\$lhg\$1@news.lth.se>,  
Struan Gray <struan.gray@sljus.lu.se> wrote:

- > Has anyone received any info on the proposed
- > solution(s) for IDL on Mac OS X?

I recently submitted a bug report for IDL 5.5 running in Classic mode under OS X. The reply included this

- > Unfortunately, since we do not have an operable Mac OSX machine
- > inhouse and do not plan to continue the support for
- > Macs; I needed to research the bug on other OS systems ...

I hope this is just poor communication between support and development, but I am very concerned. I just spent a lot of money based on their press release of 2001-12-03, which said ...

- > RSI plans to provide a special pre-release of IDL for Mac OS X
- > to customers in Q1, 2002, and officially release the final version
- > based on customer feedback from the pre-release.

The press release also said ...

- > For the Macintosh OS X platform, RSI will be providing a native
- > release using Tenon Intersystems' Xtools X-Windows server, giving
- > customers the benefit of OS X's Unix core while providing a Motif
- > interface similar to that provided on other Unix platforms.

I submitted a question to [info@ResearchSystems.com](mailto:info@ResearchSystems.com) inquiring about whether the upcoming OS X version would work with other X Windows servers (e.g. eXodus). So far (3 weeks later), I have received no reply. Not even a "sorry, we don't know" or "sorry, we can't answer that".

Since I need X Windows servers now, I expect that I will have to go ahead and spend ~\$600 for software that will either be redundant (if I buy XTools) or unusable (if I buy eXodus) when (if) IDL for OS X ships.

Ken

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Subject: Re: Any update on OS X

Posted by [Bernard K.](#) on Sun, 17 Mar 2002 21:40:56 GMT

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Hi Kenneth,

before spending some money on commercial X-Windows systems, you should consider installing Xfree first. Even if you only have a limited experience with Unix it's easy to install and setup. Functionality is really great.

You should visit <http://www.mrcla.com/XonX/> for detailed information.

When you have installed the server and Xdarwin you can replace the (ugly?) default window manager by for example windowmaker:

<http://www.osxgnu.org/software/Xwin/WindowManagers/WindowMaker/>  
(there are other choices of course).

Cheers,  
Bernard.

In article <k-bowman-1F73A0.10441917032002@news.tamu.edu>, Kenneth Bowman <k-bowman@null.tamu.edu> wrote:

```
> In article <a6sfoe$lhg$1@news.lth.se>,
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>  
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> Ken

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Subject: Re: Any update on OS X  
Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Mon, 18 Mar 2002 12:17:19 GMT  
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Kenneth Bowman, k-bowman@null.tamu.edu writes:

> I just spent a lot of money based on their  
> press release of 2001-12-03 ..

I'm sorry to hear that you too are getting the mushroom treatment.

We've rehearsed the pro- and anti-mac arguments already here, and I don't really want to do that again. I like IDL, and will carry on using my existing programs in 5.5, but I have no reason to prefer IDL over other, cheaper alternatives if Mac support is dropped. It's a shame, but RSI/Kodak are not the only ones having to be unsentimental about costs these days.

Can I still come to the IDL elite programmers' meetings if I don't have an active license? How about if I offer to fill the hot tub each morning?

Struan

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Subject: Re: Any update on OS X  
Posted by [John McLeod](#) on Mon, 18 Mar 2002 12:27:55 GMT  
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I have been in communication with RSI over the last couple of days and

would characterize their response as helpful and cautiously optimistic on this issue. I had suggested, by-the-way, that they reply to the first post in this chain,  
and that the poster was not the only one concerned about OS X support. In any case, a query on OS X directed at support@rsinc.com (for those with support)  
might be a good and timely idea.

"Kenneth Bowman" <k-bowman@null.tamu.edu> wrote in message  
news:k-bowman-1F73A0.10441917032002@news.tamu.edu...

> In article <a6sfoe\$lhg\$1@news.lth.se>,  
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>

>  
> Ken

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Subject: Re: Any update on OS X  
Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Mon, 18 Mar 2002 17:11:47 GMT  
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As far as I know RSI received what they need to fix the reported bug in Mac IDL v. 5.5. The reason they just sit on it is unknown to me. One upside is that they at least \*wanted\* to have the fix. This may mean that they have not given up completely.

Cheers,  
Pavel

Struan Gray wrote:

>  
> Has anyone received any info on the proposed  
> solution(s) for IDL on Mac OS X? My maintenance is up for  
> renewal and I'm facing strong arguments for simply dropping  
> IDL. RSI promised me that "something good" would be  
> available by now, but nothing whatsoever has happened (in  
> public at least).  
>  
> I'm not asking for people to break confidentiality  
> agreements, just giving IDL one last chance before I pull  
> the plug.  
>  
> Struan

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