
Subject: Re: RSI is a money thirsty beast!!
Posted by [andy](#) on Fri, 10 Jun 1994 16:18:22 GMT
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Lines: 30
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References: <ghsu-unstable.771181527@nswc.navy.mil>
NNTP-Posting-Host: pong.gsfc.nasa.gov
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Guan-Hsong Hsu,

I suppose one could think of RSI as a "money thirsty beast", but then again they are simply trying to survive as software developers in a market which has some real stiff competition. They have to be able to pay good programmers and support people what they are worth, or the whole company will lose out to those who **ARE** willing and able to pay for the good people. I am sure that marketing also costs them a pretty penny, and the acquisition of more users is vital to sustaining a competitive business. They can't allow other companies to obtain an increasingly large client base without trying to do the same (hopefully at a faster pace). This all costs \$\$, so we are paying for their survival with the hope that the product's value (to us anyway) will increase.

There prices are not LOW, but their product is reasonably robust and getting better (I think) all the time. We are happy to pay what is necessary for them to stay around. I do wish, however, that the money were spent to improve some of the core routines that aren't quite right (like I think they are doing with contour) before they begin working on new Gee-whiz features that I may never use. This newsgroup is full of complaints about interpolation problems, contouring mistakes, documentation omissions, etc.

...just an alternative view...

Andy

--

,__o Andrew F. Loughe (Mail Code 971)
-_<, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center phone: (301) 286-5899
(*)/(*) Greenbelt, MD 20771 email: andy.loughe@gsfc.nasa.gov

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Guan-Hsong Hsu,

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Subject: Re: RSI is a money thirsty beast!!

Posted by [Utermann\[1\]](#) on Mon, 13 Jun 1994 09:01:14 GMT

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In article <gate.gLHsNc1w165w@ersys.edmonton.ab.ca>, andy@pong.gsfc.nasa.gov (Andrew F. Loughe) writes:

[stuff deleted]

|> There prices are not LOW, but their product is reasonably robust and getting
|> better (I think) all the time. We are happy to pay what is necessary for them
|> to stay around. I do wish, however, that the money were spent to improve some
|> of the core routines that aren't quite right (like I think they are doing with
|> contour) before they begin working on new Gee-whiz features that I may never
|> use. This newsgroup is full of complaints about interpolation problems,

|> contouring mistakes, documentation omissions, etc.
|>
|> ...just an alternative view...

which I would sign, too. And let me add a question: is anybody out there missinf a type DCOMPLEX besides me? I would need it know for a program using lots of FFT calls. And I don't see a reason for the restriction to only single precision real and imag. part. And at least if you've got an RS/6000 which is even faster on double than on single ...

- Ralf

--

Ralf Utermann

University of Augsburg (Germany),	Institute of Physics
Memmingerstr.6	"Speaking for me and nobody else"
D-86135 Augsburg	Phone: +49-821-5977-235
SMTP: Ralf.Utermann@Physik.Uni-Augsburg.DE	Fax: -222

Subject: Re: RSI is a money thirsty beast!!
Posted by [cvb](#) on Tue, 14 Jun 1994 15:20:45 GMT
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In article <ghsu-unstable.771181527@nswc.navy.mil> ghsu%unstable@nswc.navy.mil (Guan-Hsong Hsu) writes:

> Hi, There,
> I have just found out that RSI requires each individual users of
> IDL to send in \$200 to register in order to get technical support.
> Here's what they say :
>
> ...
>>
> using IDL, I have seen the price of a license going up and up.
> Restrictions on usage get worse. RSI has turned from a small,
> technically oriented outfit into this horrible money sucking beast.
> It is really sad. Is Visual Numeric just as \$\$ thirsty?
> Mathworks is perhaps just as bad. Every little toolbox costs \$K.
> But at least they don't require each user to pay in order to get
> support. Maybe they are all just as bad.

RSI is THE most competitive (& competent) alternative out there isn't it?
Everyone else charges you yearly fees just to use the old software you bought ages ago.

> I think we need a GNU version of IDL/Matlab clone!

Amen. This is a sad situation.

-- Chris

Christopher P. Van Buskirk / | chris.van.buskirk@anat.umsmed.edu

| | Fax: (601) 984-1655

Systems Programmer \ | Phone: (601) 984-1681

Department of Anatomy | | Mail: 2500 North State Street

School of Medicine / | Jackson, MS 39216-4505

| |
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Subject: Re: RSI is a money thirsty beast!!

Posted by [harmonic](#) on Tue, 14 Jun 1994 20:04:47 GMT

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In article <CrE7yM.Co5@anat.UMSMED.EDU> cvb@anat.UMSMED.EDU (Christopher Buskirk) writes:

> In article <ghsu-unstable.771181527@nswc.navy.mil> ghsu%unstable@nswc.navy.mil (Guan-Hsong Hsu) writes:

>

>> I think we need a GNU version of IDL/Matlab clone!

>

> Amen. This is a sad situation.

>

There are several excellent competitive alternatives that cost much less.
i.e., O-Matrix, xMath, etc.

Subject: Re: RSI is a money thirsty beast!!

Posted by [jwbruce](#) on Wed, 15 Jun 1994 18:19:36 GMT

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In article <CrEL3z.7Mv@world.std.com>, [harmonic@world.std.com](#) (Beau Paisley) writes:

|> In article <CrE7yM.Co5@anat.UMSMED.EDU> cvb@anat.UMSMED.EDU (Christopher Buskirk) writes:

|> >In article <ghsu-unstable.771181527@nswc.navy.mil> ghsu%unstable@nswc.navy.mil

(Guan-Hsong Hsu) writes:

|> >

|> >> I think we need a GNU version of IDL/Matlab clone!

There is a free software package written by John W. Eaton which is distributed under the GNU/FSF license. It is called `_Octave_` and is available from

`ftp://ftp.cche.utexas.edu/pub/octave`

|> >

|> >Amen. This is a sad situation.

|> >

|>

|> There are several excellent competitive alternatives that cost much less.

|> i.e., O-Matrix, xMath, etc.

|>

|>

--

J.W.Bruce

Electrical Engineer

Space Science Support

Mevatec Corporation

Huntsville, Alabama

`jwbruce@ugsgi.msfc.nasa.gov`

(205) 544-8644