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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Sun, 12 Jan 2003 00:55:32 GMT

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In article <7f0efdca.0301111615.3a5429ef@posting.google.com>,  
mike7510@hotmail.com (Michael de la Fuente) wrote:

> Hello,  
> I'm a student at RIT in NY and am taking an Imaging Science course  
> here. They use IDL extensively I see and was wondering if there are  
> any users of IDL on SGI Irix platforms here. I would be interested in  
> your feedback on how well IDL runs and executes on IRIX. Also, any  
> other info (pricing, downloadable ftp site, etc etc) would be helpful  
> too. Thank you.  
> -Mike

Works fine for us on IRIX.

In my experience, the various unix version of IDL are nearly identical  
and high quality.

rsinc.com

There is a student version, but it is currently Windows only. :-(

Ken Bowman

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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sun, 12 Jan 2003 14:17:10 GMT

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Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:

> In article <7f0efdca.0301111615.3a5429ef@posting.google.com>,  
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> and high quality.  
>  
> rsinc.com  
>  
> There is a student version, but it is currently Windows only. :-(  
>  
> Ken Bowman

Does someone know if this windows idl version runs with wine?

Reimar

--

Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-I)  
Forschungszentrum Juelich  
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

-----  
a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)  
=====

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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX  
Posted by [mike7510](#) on Sun, 12 Jan 2003 23:09:33 GMT  
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"Kenneth P. Bowman" <kpb@null.com> wrote in message  
news:<kpb-79FA65.18553211012003@corp.supernews.com>...  
> In article <7f0efdca.0301111615.3a5429ef@posting.google.com>,  
> mike7510@hotmail.com (Michael de la Fuente) wrote:  
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> and high quality.  
>  
> rsinc.com  
>  
> There is a student version, but it is currently Windows only. :-(  
>  
> Ken Bowman

thanks, I'll see if I can get some sort of discount if I can buy it  
through the school or something even though they run IDL on Solaris.  
It's worth a shot anyway.  
-Mike

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX  
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Mon, 13 Jan 2003 11:25:53 GMT  
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Michael de la Fuente wrote:

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institute you're attending? If it's owned by the institute you might not  
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covers installation on Solaris, IRIX, Linux and others for network  
licenses.

--

Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,  
University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK  
E-mail : [nmw@ion.le.ac.uk](mailto:nmw@ion.le.ac.uk)  
Phone : +44 (0)116 2523548, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX  
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Mon, 13 Jan 2003 12:42:00 GMT

In article <avu7o1\$b7a\$1@south.jnrs.ja.net>,  
Nigel Wade <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk> wrote:

> As others have said, IDL runs very well under IRIX. The only complaint I  
> might make is that it doesn't make use of the MP capabilities of IRIX.

Actually, I think it does. Some time ago I did some testing using the  
thread pool on our 4-processor O200's. It did appear to use multiple  
processors, although the speed-up on my codes was not good.

Ken Bowman

---

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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Mon, 13 Jan 2003 16:05:48 GMT

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Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:

> In article <avu7o1\$b7a\$1@south.jnrs.ja.net>,  
> Nigel Wade <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk> wrote:  
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>  
> Ken Bowman

I've certainly never seen IDL use more than a single processor for internal  
operations. Is it supposed to?

--

Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,  
University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

E-mail : nmw@ion.le.ac.uk

Phone : +44 (0)116 2523548, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555

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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Mon, 13 Jan 2003 17:10:16 GMT

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In article <avuo4s\$fab\$1@south.jnrs.ja.net>,  
Nigel Wade <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk> wrote:

> I've certainly never seen IDL use more than a single processor for internal  
> operations. Is it supposed to?

Newer versions of IDL support multi-threading. See Chapter 15 in the  
5.6 manuals "Multithreading in IDL". It's in the "What's New" manual in  
5.5, I think. I can't remember in which version it first appeared.

Ken Bowman

On my dual-processor Mac:

```
IDL> help, !cpu, /str
** Structure !CPU, 6 tags, length=24, data length=24:
  HW_VECTOR      LONG      1
  VECTOR_ENABLE  LONG      1
  HW_NCPU        LONG      2
  TPOOL_NTHREADS LONG      2
  TPOOL_MIN_ELTS LONG    100000
  TPOOL_MAX_ELTS LONG      0
```

This translates as:

Vector unit present (currently Mac only)  
Vector unit enabled  
2 cpus available  
use 2 threads when vectors satisfy these conditions:  
  minimum vector length, 100000  
  no maximum vector length

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2003 09:20:56 GMT

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Kenneth Bowman wrote:

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> Nigel Wade <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk> wrote:  
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> 5.6 manuals "Multithreading in IDL". It's in the "What's New" manual in  
> 5.5, I think. I can't remember in which version it first appeared.

>  
> Ken Bowman  
>

I don't think I ever got a "What's new" for 5.5; we get one copy of printed stuff for the site. The online docs supplied with 5.5 were all for 5.4 weren't they?

I'll have a play with the threaded stuff and see how well it works. We do a \*lot\* of FFT work and multi-threading might really speed that up (it might even convince people here to stop using 5.1).

I've not got my copy of 5.6 yet...

--

Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,  
University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

E-mail : [nmw@ion.le.ac.uk](mailto:nmw@ion.le.ac.uk)

Phone : +44 (0)116 2523548, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555

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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2003 15:15:51 GMT

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"Nigel Wade" <[nmw@ion.le.ac.uk](mailto:nmw@ion.le.ac.uk)> wrote in message  
news:b00kpo\$t84\$1@south.jnrs.ja.net...

[stuff deleted]

> I'll have a play with the threaded stuff and see how well it works. We do  
a  
> \*lot\* of FFT work and multi-threading might really speed that up (it might  
> even convince people here to stop using 5.1).

FFT is definitely multi-threaded in IDL 5.5 and 5.6. You should observe significant speedup on a multi-CPU system.

Cheers,

Liam.

Practical IDL Programming

<http://www.gumley.com/>

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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2003 15:20:32 GMT

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Nigel Wade wrote:

>  
> Kenneth Bowman wrote:  
>  
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>  
> I don't think I ever got a "What's new" for 5.5; we get one copy of printed  
> stuff for the site. The online docs supplied with 5.5 were all for 5.4  
> weren't they?

Glancing at my shelf I see a "what's new" book for 5.2, 5.4 ,5.5, and 5.6 - the last one is still in the shrink wrap. No 5.3, but I do have the several phone book like manuals.

The 5.5 what's new has a multithreading index entry. The 5.4 does not.

I found an old 5" floppy under my 5.4 what's new. huh. how about that.

paulv

--

Paul van Delst  
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC  
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274  
Fax:(301)763-8545

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX  
Posted by [mike7510](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2003 21:28:23 GMT  
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Nigel Wade <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk> wrote in message news:<avu7o1\$b7a\$1@south.jnrs.ja.net>...  
> Michael de la Fuente wrote:  
>  
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> Are you looking to run it on a personal machine, or one owned by the  
> institute you're attending? If it's owned by the institute you might not  
> need to purchase anything if they have network licenses. IDL for UNIX  
> covers installation on Solaris, IRIX, Linux and others for network  
> licenses.

This would be on my own personal machine and the software for IRIX goes for like \$1200 while the student version for Windows is only \$80, man that ruined my day!!! I asked the systems admin for the Imaging Science department and he said he isn't able to help me out with a license, so I emailed Rsinc.com and hope they can give me a break in the price, worth a shot anyway...anyone looking to dump their IDL stuff for a price?? or do a license transfer, if they allow that at all?? Thanks for the feedback.

-Michael

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2003 21:55:52 GMT  
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Michael de la Fuente wrote:

>  
> Nigel Wade <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk> wrote in message  
news:<avu7o1\$b7a\$1@south.jnrs.ja.net>...  
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If you can afford an SGI box for personal use, then an IDL license should be chook feed.  
(just kidding...mostly)

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economy, maybe they've softened their stance. :o|

paulv

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Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274  
Fax:(301)763-8545

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX  
Posted by [GrahamWilsonCA](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2003 23:20:09 GMT  
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mike7510@hotmail.com (Michael de la Fuente) wrote:

> I'm a student at RIT in NY and am taking an Imaging Science course  
> here.

You have your own personal IRIX workstation? Well, you must have more  
money than I do... In any case, RSI would be a little hypocritical if  
they started giving away the IRIX license for the student price given  
that they have outright refused to let me purchase IDL for linux at  
the student price :(

I hate to dust off and mount my linux soap-box but the thought of  
actually paying money for a bloated M\$ windows operating system just  
so I can have the privilage using IDL at home is just silly. I am  
doing a masters course in imaging having spent the past 5 years

writing visualization tools in the medical imaging industry. I write all my assignments for my remote sensing and imaging courses in c++ and/or python and write data files that I can read using IDL in our computer lab if I must. When our instructor realized that the student version was only for windows, she revised her policy regarding assignments so they could be coded in any language that students have access to. To be honest, using the IDL language for anything more visualization is like coding in the stone ages anyways! It seems the folks who implemented the IDL objects only read a quarter of their CS texts or did I miss something? If you need real visualization toolkit use VTK.

---

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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [mike7510](#) on Wed, 15 Jan 2003 03:58:52 GMT

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Paul van Delst <[paul.vandelst@noaa.gov](mailto:paul.vandelst@noaa.gov)> wrote in message  
news:<3E248768.B04047FA@noaa.gov>...

> Michael de la Fuente wrote:

>>

>> Nigel Wade <[nmw@ion.le.ac.uk](mailto:nmw@ion.le.ac.uk)> wrote in message  
news:<avu7o1\$b7a\$1@south.jnrs.ja.net>...

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> that spring to mind :o) Suffice it to say don't hold your breath. Then again, given the  
> economy, maybe they've softened their stance. :o|  
>  
> paulv

ummmm SGI workstations sell for pennies on the dollar last time I checked Ebay :-) hence why I could afford one.....but anyway in terms of licensing, I'm sure they are as anal as SGI with the licensing of the product to different machines, but do you know if they allow license transfers of older or more recent versions? thanks for the info.  
-Mike

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX  
Posted by [mike7510](#) on Wed, 15 Jan 2003 04:21:34 GMT  
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GrahamWilsonCA@yahoo.ca (Graham) wrote in message news:<eda30d78.0301141520.49b9392f@posting.google.com>...  
> mike7510@hotmail.com (Michael de la Fuente) wrote:  
>  
>> I'm a student at RIT in NY and am taking an Imaging Science course  
>> here.  
>  
> You have your own personal IRIX workstation? Well, you must have more  
> money than I do...

nah, just a smart shopper on ebay :-)

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> they started giving away the IRIX license for the student price given  
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- > visualization is like coding in the stone ages anyways! It seems the
- > folks who implemented the IDL objects only read a quarter of their CS
- > texts or did I miss something? If you need real visualization toolkit
- > use VTK.

all of the assignments are to be done in IDL so I can't just pick and choose whatever software I want to use.....no big deal I suppose, just thought it would be nice if I could buy a copy for my own personal use or if anyone out there wanted to do a license transfer for a fee of some sort.....good luck with your masters degree!!!

-Mike

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [skelton](#) on Wed, 15 Jan 2003 08:55:02 GMT

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Hi Mike. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news but the first line of the IDL license agreement reads:

"This agreement includes the non-exclusive, non-transferable grant to use the IDL Software at the locations and facilities identified below in this agreement...."

Most real software \*nix can be "upgraded" or transferred to other machines on site (in this case, after paying an RSI upgrade tax) under such a license. You cannot legally transfer a license from one site to another.

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 15 Jan 2003 14:59:30 GMT

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Michael de la Fuente wrote:

>  
> Paul van Delst <[paul.vandelst@noaa.gov](mailto:paul.vandelst@noaa.gov)> wrote in message  
news:<[3E248768.B04047FA@noaa.gov](mailto:3E248768.B04047FA@noaa.gov)>...  
>> Michael de la Fuente wrote:  
>>>

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>> economy, maybe they've softened their stance. :o]

>>>

>> paulv

>>>

> ummmm SGI workstations sell for pennies on the dollar last time I

> checked Ebay :-> hence why I could afford one.....

Huh. how about that. I never would've guessed.

> but anyway in terms

> of licensing, I'm sure they are as anal as SGI with the licensing of

> the product to different machines,

I have done this many, many times with a particular IDL single-user license. As workstations got retired, I simply migrated the license over to another machine (I think three times - from one IBM RS/6K to another to my Linux laptop). To get the new license keys I simply contact RSI with the new hostid info. But, and it's a significant but, in addition to a licensed product -- which you could conceivably get cheaply from a generous professor/sysadmin if they can sort out the purchasing paperwork (not an insignificant feat at some universities) -- I also was up-to-date on my maintenance payments. I don't know if this is a necessary thing if all you're doing is transferring an already paid for license from one machine to another, but my experience with IDL licensing is that if it can be made difficult, it will be. I sure this isn't a willful effort on RSI's part to make life difficult, more me not being able (or, truth be told, willing) to follow all the machinations of said policy.

- > but do you know if they allow
- > license transfers of older or more recent versions?

I would \_hope\_ that if the product has been fully paid for, it shouldn't matter (the maintenance issue notwithstanding.)

Good luck

paulv

--

Paul van Delst  
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC  
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274  
Fax:(301)763-8545

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX  
Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Wed, 15 Jan 2003 17:50:14 GMT  
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On Wed, 15 Jan 2003, Paul van Delst wrote:

- > I would \_hope\_ that if the product has been fully paid for, it shouldn't
- > matter (the maintenance issue notwithstanding.)

Software 'ownership' is always a slightly obfuscated matter.  
Nevertheless, I believe I stand corrected as in addition to what I wrote before, the license agreement clearly states:

"TRANSFER - You may transfer the Software, Documentation and this license as a package to another party, but only after all of the following conditions have been met: (a) written notification to RSI, (b) agreement by the transferee be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement,

and (c) acceptance by RSI. In the event of transfer of the Software, Documentation, and this license as a package, you will destroy all copies of the Software, whether in printed, machine readable, or other form, not delivered to the transferee."

Perhaps there is an ebay market for IDL licenses?

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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [mike7510](#) on Wed, 15 Jan 2003 20:53:43 GMT

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"Randall Skelton <skelton@atm.ox.ac.uk>" <rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk> wrote in message news:<Pine.LNX.4.33.0301150842450.11336-100000@moriarty.atm.ox.ac.uk>...

> Hi Mike. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news but the first line of the IDL  
> license agreement reads:  
>  
> "This agreement includes the non-exclusive, non-transferable grant to use  
> the IDL Software at the locations and facilities identified below in this  
> agreement...."  
>  
> Most real software \*nix can be "upgraded" or transfered to other machines  
> on site (in this case, after paying an RSI upgrade tax) under such a  
> license. You cannot legally transfer a license from one site to another.

perhaps SSHing into the network then would be the best alternative if  
I wanted to work at home :-). I could understand them being anal  
about the licensing...

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Subject: Re: IDL for IRIX

Posted by [mike7510](#) on Thu, 16 Jan 2003 00:31:02 GMT

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Randall Skelton <rhskelto@mulligan.atm.ox.ac.uk> wrote in message news:<Pine.LNX.4.44.0301151739530.22813-100000@mulligan.atm.ox.ac.uk>...

> On Wed, 15 Jan 2003, Paul van Delst wrote:  
>  
>> I would \_hope\_ that if the product has been fully paid for, it shouldn't  
>> matter (the maintenance issue notwithstanding.)  
>  
> Software 'ownership' is always a slightly obfuscated matter.  
> Nevertheless, I believe I stand corrected as in addition to what I wrote  
> before, the license agreement clearly states:  
>  
> "TRANSFER - You may transfer the Software, Documentation and this license

- > as a package to another party, but only after all of the following
- > conditions have been met: (a) written notification to RSI, (b) agreement
- > by the transferee be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement,
- > and (c) acceptance by RSI. In the event of transfer of the Software,
- > Documentation, and this license as a package, you will destroy all copies
- > of the Software, whether in printed, machine readable, or other form, not
- > delivered to the transferee."
- >
- > Perhaps there is an ebay market for IDL licenses?

someone is selling a Windows 5.6 version brand new for a starting bid of .25 US cents but it's useless without the license so might as well fling them around the room for fun :-)

Yeah I don't think RSI likes students anyway considering they haven't responded back to my email....time to go into "kiddie-hacker" mode and write a Perl script to copy the install files off of the school's network and crack the nodelock license :-) only kidding so RSI please don't send me a lawsuit in the mail....well if anyone comes across anything that might help me out let me know, I appreciate it and enjoy  
-Mike

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