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Subject: IDL and RH 9 [ RH Enterprise WS 3 ]  
Posted by ["Andrew.Lo"](#) on Fri, 14 Nov 2003 22:42:07 GMT  
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We are running a flavor of Red Hat Linux called Advanced Workstation version 3.

It is an enterprise version, built off of the "free" Red Hat 9.0.

Are there any special tricks to running flexIm under RH 9.0?

Our SysAds are experiencing difficulty getting IDL up-and-running.

Thanks for any help!

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Subject: Re: IDL and RH 9 [ RH Enterprise WS 3 ]  
Posted by [rabaca](#) on Fri, 21 Nov 2003 00:47:16 GMT  
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Which version of idl? I had problems running idl versions 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 under RH9 before I upgraded to glibc-2.3.2-27.9.7 (advisory RHSA-2003:325-10). I have also upgraded flexIm according to RSI support article 3496 (<http://www.rsinc.com/services/techtip.asp?ttid=3496>). Problems have gone after these changes. I hope I will not find others...

Cheers,  
Carlos

"@noaa.gov (remove OMIT)" <"Andrew.LougheOMIT"@noaa.gov (remove OMIT)"> wrote in message news:<bp3Inv\$sv8\$1@boulder.noaa.gov>...

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Subject: Re: IDL and RH 9 [ RH Enterprise WS 3 ]  
Posted by [Andrew Loughe](#) on Mon, 24 Nov 2003 15:53:43 GMT  
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That did it!

Thanks.

Carlos Roberto Rabaca wrote:

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> 5.5 under RH9 before I upgraded to glibc-2.3.2-27.9.7 (advisory  
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>  
> Cheers,  
> Carlos

>  
> "@noaa.gov (remove OMIT)" <"Andrew.LougheOMIT"@noaa.gov (remove OMIT)"> wrote in  
message news:<bp3lnv\$sv8\$1@boulder.noaa.gov>...

>  
>> We are running a flavor of Red Hat Linux called Advanced Workstation version 3.  
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>> Thanks for any help!

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Subject: Re: idl and R

Posted by [ben.bighair](#) on Fri, 04 Apr 2008 14:58:47 GMT

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On Apr 4, 5:26 am, rlaybe...@hotmail.com wrote:

> Hi  
>  
> Does anybody have a summary of the major differences between R and  
> idl? I have been using idl for years and have never used R. I  
> understand R is statistics orientated, but does it do anything that  
> idl can't or does it do it better?  
>

Hi,

I have been using R for about a year - this is part of the plan in one project to replace IDL with ImageJ and R as we move toward open source software. I still use IDL extensively for other projects. I haven't hit a real "comfort level" with R, but I have used it as a

general purpose language for working with text files - mostly things that can be managed as data.frames (simple spreadsheet-like data structures.) In IDL I had built extensive OO libraries around handling vectors of simple structures that are quite analogous to data frames in R.

I, too, thought of R as statistics oriented - and it sure has a lot going for it in that realm - but my year-into-it-now sense is that it is better to call it a general purpose language. Keep in mind I haven't really had much formal training in programming.

Perhaps first and foremost - the user group around R, like this one around IDL, is very helpful. It is also a lot bigger.

Second - library distribution is a snap in R. The base package of R has a lot of stuff in it, but sometimes you need to import extra stuff (like mapping tools for instance). I found it *\*incredibly easy\** to do so. (This is very much unlike my experience with Python on PPC Mac - great software but what a mess adding SciPy libraries.)

One thing I haven't noodled out about R is object inheritance. In R there are two distinct layers of object-oriented programming - the oldish S3 and the newish S4 styles. I haven't been able to penetrate the S4 paradigm which I gather is more akin to the OO paradigm in IDL. So for now I have single files of multiple functions that accept my data object as an argument. I really couldn't call that OO work with a heap variable - there is a whole lot of copying arguments going on. I really miss the simplicity of the IDL OO paradigm.

I haven't jumped into any GUI/Widget stuff with R. That kind of stuff requires extra libraries (Tk/Tcl, Wx, etc.) which are easy to load, but each has its own API. Recently a limited "gWidget" system has been introduced for R that provides a consistent API regardless of which widget toolkit the user chooses to use underneath. I think this has the flavor of IDL's widgets (with Motif or Windows underneath) - I hope to dive into that someday.

I don't pay too much attention to computing power things, but here is a dated comparison of R with some other languages (but not IDL)...  
<http://www.sciviews.org/benchmark/index.html>

Hope that is helpful.

Ben

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