

---

Subject: rumor mill: intel-native IDL 6.3 in July  
Posted by [Marshall Perrin](#) on Mon, 26 Jun 2006 23:12:56 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I recently heard that RSI, no, wait, ITTVIS has informed one of my colleagues that an Intel-native version of IDL 6.3 will be available next month. Anyone care to confirm or deny?

- Marshall

---

---

Subject: Re: rumor mill: intel-native IDL 6.3 in July  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 27 Jun 2006 17:25:48 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Tue, 27 Jun 2006 06:55:12 +0000, Marshall Perrin wrote:

> henrygroe@gmail.com <henrygroe@gmail.com> wrote:  
>>  
>> I assume we're talking about Mac OSX.  
>  
> Whoops, yes! Sorry if my omission of that confused anybody.  
>  
>> I suppose you could install virtualization to run linux within OSX and  
>> install the linux version on that? (perish the painful thought, but  
>> that might be faster than PPC IDL running on OSX Intel; I don't have  
>> any Intel machines yet myself)  
>  
> PPC IDL running on OSX Intel, even in emulation, is faster than PPC IDL on  
> G4 Powerbooks, and nearly as fast as PPC IDL on G5s. (Well, at least it  
> is according to benchmarking on one particular piece of code, the Keck  
> OSIRIS data reduction pipeline. Other benchmarks may vary wildly, of  
> course!)

That is my (sad) impression as well, from some limited testing. It seems the Duo Core can outrun a G4 even when translating PPC machine code on the fly. Ouch. That of course means that a MacBook (neÃ© iBook) will quickly become the cheapest fast mobile IDL workstation (unless you need monster 3D performance), when the re-compile happens. Less than \$1K with academic discount:  
<http://www.apple.com/macbook/macbook.html>.

By the way, I've successfully created double-clickable OSX IDL applications using the IDLVM, and it even associates file extensions (saved objects) with this application. I do it using a small glue script together with "Platypus" (<http://www.sveinbjorn.org/platypus>). Works very nicely.

JD

---