Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 Update Preview (forward for those w
Posted by hrebhan on Tue, 28 Feb 1995 10:23:48 GMT
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>
> Technical Support Summary
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> Each new IDL or ENVI license entitles one designated technical contact
> at your organization to 60 days of free technical support via
> telephone, fax, and E-mail.

In other words: instead of one year support for a new licence you only will
habe 2 months support for the future ! This is realy bad |-((

 Helge


```
  ----------------------------------------------------------- ----
 |  Helge Rebhan                                 |
 |  Alfred-Wegener-Institut fuer Polar-         @ @ @ @       |
 |  und Meeresforschung                      ___||_           |
 |                                  \--/ oooo |--/     |
 |  Sektion Physik I                ~~~_____/~~~    |
 |  Am Handelshafen 12                            |
 |  27570 Bremerhaven                             |
 |  Tel. 0471-4831-261                            |
 |  Fax. 0471-4831-425     e-mail : hrebhan@awi-bremerhaven.de  |
  ----------------------------------------------------------- ----
```


Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 Update Preview (forward for those w
Posted by gurman on Thu, 02 Mar 1995 06:42:10 GMT
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In article <3iutjl$e35@alster.dkrz.de>, hrebhan@awi-bremerhaven.de wrote:

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    I also believe the new maintenance policy is keyed to the original

license price, so it will become much more expensive to maintain
node-locked licenses. That is a shame (IMHO), because the license manager
is such a pain.

    Anyone have any opinions on the matter?

        Joe Gurman

--
J.B. Gurman / Solar Physics Branch/ NASA Goddard Space Flight Center/
Greenbelt MD 20771 USA / gurman@uvsp.gsfc.nasa.gov
| Federal employees are still prohibited from holding opinions while|
| at work. Therefore, any opinions expressed herein are somebody |
| else's. |

In article <gurman-0203950142100001@barkochba.gsfc.nasa.gov> gurman@uvsp.gsfc.nasa.gov
(Joseph B. Gurman) writes:
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We jumped ship on the node locked licenses a few years back when they
first came out. It was pretty painless even on our systems (Alphas
running OSF/1) despite having to use the newly ported license manager
daemon. All in all, I'd have to say that it was much easier than
expected. We were also able to consolidate several of our node locked
licenses in to a single multi-license network version and thus able to
save a bit on annual maint. I am not sure whether this is still a
standard practice, as this was done before they hired a "business
manager". Since then a number of questionable business decisions have
been made.

IMHO, RSI is going the wrong way on this. They need to hold the line
on maint costs and drop the price of IDL to be more in line with the
competition (like PV-WAVE, Hi-Q, Matlab, ...). These are all running
at about half the cost of IDL. Market share and size of total market
are the key to stable profits. I have no doubt IDL would do well in
head to head competition against these other packages, but at twice

the cost they price themselves in to another league (and out of the competition). The cost vs units-sold function is not a smooth curve rather it has a number of discontinuities in it. Finding a local maximum in cost*units-sold does not assure one of having found the global max.

 ... but I ramble.

--
 Joseph M. Zawodny   (KO4LW)   NASA Langley Research Center
 Internet: j.m.zawodny@larc.nasa.gov   MS-475, Hampton VA, 23681-0001
 TCP/IP: ko4lw@ko4lw.ampr.org Packet: ko4lw@n4hog.va.usa.na

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 Update Preview (forward for those w
Posted by tribbey on Fri, 03 Mar 1995 14:19:09 GMT
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In article <3j7329$e5a@reznor.larc.nasa.gov>, zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov (Joseph M Zawodny) writes:
|> In article <gurman-0203950142100001@barkochba.gsfc.nasa.gov>
gurman@uvsp.gsfc.nasa.gov (Joseph B. Gurman) writes:
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I think I have to agree. I started using PV-WAVE in 1989 and soon after that started using IDL.
This is a time span of 5-6 years, tops. In that time it seems that RSI has gone from a very
grassroots company to something that I would call 'typically corporate'. Granted, prices almost
invariably go up and not down, but in these past 5 years things have changed rapidly and, IMHO,
seemingly erratic at times.

There was a time when IDL offered features that were not available from the above mentioned
competition. But other than maybe the FFT routines in IDL, the gap between IDL and its
competition
has become very narrow. I have heard of a STUDENT edition of IDL priced at ~$200! That's
gonna be
hard to sell when an educational copy of MATLAB or Mathematica or MAPLE can be had for a lot
less.
In todays corporate and academic climates, it may, IMHO, become very difficult to woo potential
customers
when budgets are tight and there are more economically feasible alternatives available.

It would seem, IMHO, that the corporate focus at RSI has moved from being an enabler of science
to
begin just another software company trying to sell a product. I think that if you have a good
product,
have it priced right, then you don't need a lot of overhead to get people to buy it, use it, and sell
others
on it.

 ... But I ramble, too.

Will Tribbey
Biomedical Imaging Center
University of Tennessee Medical Center at Knoxville

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 Update Preview (forward for those w
Posted by chase on Fri, 03 Mar 1995 22:08:07 GMT
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>>>> > "Joseph" == Joseph M Zawodny <zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov> writes:
In article <3j7329$e5a@reznor.larc.nasa.gov> zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov (Joseph M Zawodny) writes:

Joseph> In article <gurman-0203950142100001@barkochba.gsfc.nasa.gov>
gurman@uvsp.gsfc.nasa.gov (Joseph B. Gurman) writes:
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Joseph> the cost they price themselves in to another league (and out of the
Joseph> competition).

I have to disagree with the price comparison to Matlab.

This week I have been pricing Matlab for UNIX workstations. It costs
$3995 for adding a single network license from the MathWorks. You can
save a small amount of money by going through a distributor. An IDL
for UNIX workstations can cost around $3000 for a negotiated price.
Toolboxes for Matlab are an additional cost and they run $1000 to
$2000 _per_ license.

Additionally, now one must pay a yearly maintenance fee for each
Matlab and toolbox license. This fee is 20% of the list price for
each license. This fee is different than that for IDL in that if you
don't pay it, when the license expires Matlab stops working. Thanks
goodness RSI hasn't decided to do this. What if you had a critical
application done in Matlab and at some point could no longer afford to
pay maintenance? It would just stop working after the expiration
date! Granted, the Mathworks offers a perpetual license that does not
have an expiration date, but it costs an _additional_ 40% for each
Matlab and toolbox license.

Compared to Matlab costs, IDL is competitive. IDL is cheaper, but not
hugely. And IDL does not expire if you decide to no longer have
maintenance.

The above comments do not apply to educational pricing nor to PC or

Mac platform pricing.

Chris
--
==============================
Bldg 24-E188
The Applied Physics Laboratory
The Johns Hopkins University
Laurel, MD 20723-6099
(301)953-6000 x8529
chris.chase@jhuapl.edu

Subject: IDL Student Edition for Linux?
Posted by davem on Sat, 04 Mar 1995 00:31:44 GMT
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In article <3j78gt$blv@martha.utk.edu>,
Will Tribbey <tribbey@scanner.hosp.utk.edu> wrote:
>
> |> IMHO, RSI is going the wrong way on this. They need to hold the line
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> |> are the key to stable profits.....
>
> .... I have heard of a STUDENT edition of IDL priced at ~$200!

Imagine how many copies of an IDL Student Edition for Linux (or IDL
Lite for Linux) that RSI could sell if the price was right! I'll bet
they could sell ten copies for every workstation licence currently in
the field....

--
Dave Michelson   University of British Columbia
davem@ee.ubc.ca   Radar Remote Sensing Group

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 Update Preview (forward for those w
Posted by gurman on Sat, 04 Mar 1995 15:55:41 GMT
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In article <3j7329$e5a@reznor.larc.nasa.gov>, zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov
(Joseph M Zawodny) wrote:

> In article <gurman-0203950142100001@barkochba.gsfc.nasa.gov>
gurman@uvsp.gsfc.nasa.gov (Joseph B. Gurman) writes:

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> daemon. All in all, I'd have to say that it was much easier than
> expected.

[other comments deleted]

   We, too, have some network licenses in our group, but very few.
Primarily, thi sis because we have mission-critical applications running
in IDL and can't afford to lose the ability to run it because a server
node or a hub or a router or a disk drive or..... is down. And the
redundancy of two servers doesn't help if there's a double failure. In a
mission-critical application, I want to be able to pick the critical
components, not have RSI pick FLEX for me.

   I really don't understand why RSI is discriminating against
node-locked licenses, which presumably already bring them in more income
per box than networked licenses (in that on a node-locked license, you
need to license the maximum number of seats you'll ever need on that box,
whereas with network servers, you could do it statistically, and license
fewer seats total, on the model that not all the seats on the network will
be occupied simultaneously.

   Guess that's why I'm not a vice-president of RSI....

        Joe Gurman

--
Joseph B. Gurman / NASA Goddard Space Flight Center/ Solar Data Analysis Center / Code 682
/ Greenbelt MD 20771 USA / gurman@uvsp.gsfc.nasa.gov
| Federal employees are still prohibited from holding opinions while at work. Any opinions
expressed herein must therefore be someone else's. |

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 Update Preview (forward for those w
Posted by murthy on Tue, 07 Mar 1995 17:51:23 GMT
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In <gurman-0203950142100001@barkochba.gsfc.nasa.gov>, gurman@uvsp.gsfc.nasa.gov
(Joseph B. Gurman) writes:
> In article <3iutjl$e35@alster.dkrz.de>, hrebhan@awi-bremerhaven.de wrote:
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> | Federal employees are still prohibited from holding opinions while|
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Actually, I'm quite happy with the price ($250) to go from 3.0 to 4.0. The only
problem is that I can't get anyone from RSI to tell me if IRIX 4.05 is still
supported or whether 4.0 for Windows will still run under OS/2

Jayant Murthy
murthy@pha.jhu.edu

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 Update Preview (forward for those w
Posted by rivers on Wed, 08 Mar 1995 03:30:06 GMT
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> supported or whether 4.0 for Windows will still run under OS/2
>
> Jayant Murthy
> murthy@pha.jhu.edu

I can say for sure that IDL 3.6.1 does NOT run under IRIX 4.05, because I tried it last week. I upgraded to IRIX 5.2 and it works fine.

_____

Mark Rivers   (312) 702-2279 (office)
CARS   (312) 702-9951 (secretary)
Univ. of Chicago   (312) 702-5454 (FAX)
5640 S. Ellis Ave.   (708) 922-0499 (home)
Chicago, IL 60637   rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Internet)

Subject: Re: IDL Student Edition for Linux?
Posted by ps on Thu, 09 Mar 1995 16:14:42 GMT
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Michael Smith (miff@apanix.apana.org.au) wrote:
: Just speaking of Linux versions, has anyone tried the Linux versions of
: IDL and PV-wave under the NetBSD Linux-emulation mode? I'm not willing
  ^^^
   have you seen that anywhere? I'm desperately looking for it. At the
moment I'm with the PV-Wave for Linux, but that's not the full fun for
an IDL-User...

: to risk Linux for mission-critical applications, but NetBSD is a different
: kettle of fish.

I don't comment on that (allthough having a different oppinion).
I hope (for you) that no Linux-user crossposts that to a Linux-group...
 ;^)

  Peter

------------------ Peter 'PIT' Suetterlin   -----------------
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fuer Sonnenphysik	
0761/3198-210	0761/71571
-<ps@kis.uni-freiburg.de>-<suettpet@sun1.ruf.uni-freiburg.de>--