
Subject: IDL 4.0 & HASP

Posted by [kletzing](#) on Wed, 17 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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I just got an e-mail from IDL on Monday which tells me that IDL v. 4.0 for Windows will now require the use of a hardware dongle which hangs off the printer port. No mention was made of this when they solicited the renewal of my maintenance contract. I run IDL on 486 notebook and am annoyed that I will now have to lug an extra piece of hardware around so that I can use IDL. Not to mention that as a travel a fair bit, this increases the odds that I could lose this thing and then have only demo-mode IDL to use. What do others think about this? I realize that RSI is trying to protect its product, but surely there must be a better way.

Craig Kletzing
craig.kletzing@unh.edu

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP

Posted by [wart](#) on Fri, 19 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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```
> In article <3pirg8$667@hammer.msfc.nasa.gov>,  
> <mallozzi@ssl.msfc.nasa.gov> wrote:  
>  
> [ hardware dongle required ]  
>>  
>> Future IDL session:  
>> $ IDL  
>> IDL> Please deposit blood sample for DNA testing to initiate IDL session.
```

```
PROCEDURE donate_blood
```

```
DEVICE, filename='/dev/needle'
```

```
sample = draw_blood(liters=1)
```

```
IF (n_elements(sample) ne 1) THEN BEGIN  
  print, 'Bad sample volume.'  
  device, _extra=0  
ENDIF
```

```
sample = draw_blood(liters=1)
```

```
IF (analyze_blood(sample, /verify_user) ne 1) THEN BEGIN  
  print, 'BWAHAHAHAHAH!'
```

```
device, _extra=0
ENDIF
```

```
sample = draw_blood(liters=1)
```

```
END
```

Usage:

```
$ idl
```

```
% Please insert blood sample to continue.
```

```
IDL> donate_blood
```

```
% Can not find device /dev/nurse.
```

```
$
```

So, not only will you have to donate blood, but it will be buggy as well.

--Wart

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP
Posted by [rep2857](#) on Fri, 19 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <3pirg8\$667@hammer.msfc.nasa.gov>,
<mallozzi@ssl.msfc.nasa.gov> wrote:

[hardware dongle required]

>

> Future IDL session:

> \$ IDL

> IDL> Please deposit blood sample for DNA testing to initiate IDL session.

Do you suppose it would accept other "samples"? I have one I'd like to submit if that policy is true for Macs, as well. I suspect it is since the beta testing required it. Perhaps something a little less obtrusive could be used instead of a dongle, say a flashing red warning beacon? I'd be embarrassed to show something to a customer/client that required the use of these.

RSI - these things are annoying. I've had the damn thing pull off the keyboard while moving the phone, keyboard, coffee cup, etc. At home, I can't close the keyboard drawer on my desk and have my keyboard at an angle to keep it from being twisted off. I suspect it has sustained a bit of physical damage due to crimping. I have about a 75% chance of

recovering the use of the system when it comes off. Usually, the minimum effect is having to restart the 3-button mouse software I use with MachTen. Please consider a real license manager for these problems rather than the hardware approach. Of course the license managers are not without their faults. It took us longer to install the license manager than the software.

Mike Schienle Hughes Santa Barbara Research Center
Home: mgs@visdata.com Coromar Drive, M/S B28/87
Work: rep2857@sbsun0010.sbrc.hac.com Goleta, CA 93117
Contract Employee. Will visualize data for large amounts of money.

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP
Posted by [patterso](#) on Fri, 19 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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mallozzi@ssl.msfc.nasa.gov wrote:

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: >of this when they solicited the renewal of my maintenance
: >contract. I run IDL on 486 notebook and am annoyed that I will...

: Future IDL session:

: \$ IDL

: IDL> Please deposit blood sample for DNA testing to initiate IDL session.

IDL> .run deposit

IDL> deposit,sample

..testing

 Welcome to IDL V5.0, Mr Simpson

Sorry..was all this talk of blood samples :)

Personally, I can see....

IDL > % Session time over. Please enter Credit Card number to continue...

Subject: RE: IDL 4.0 & HASP
Posted by [mallozzi](#) on Fri, 19 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP

Posted by [patterso](#) on Fri, 19 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Andy Jones (jones@terra.cira.colostate.edu) wrote:

: It's true. We just got our upgrade to 4.0 in the mail this week.

: Hardware dongle included.i

Hmmm...I think RSI's marketing bods need to do a complete re-think
on this idea. It seems the bigger RSI gets, the worse their
customer support becomes in areas like this. Can piracy of IDL
for Windows really be that bad?

Tim

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP

Posted by [Andy Jones](#) on Fri, 19 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov (William Thompson) wrote:

>

> kletzing@unhedi2.unh.edu (Craig Kletzing) writes:

>

>

>> I just got an e-mail from IDL on Monday which tells me that
>> IDL v. 4.0 for Windows will now require the use of a hardware
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>> there must be a better way.
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>> Craig Kletzing
>> craig.kletzing@unh.edu
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> I've not heard of this, but we've had experience with programs that use this
> approach in the past. It was never satisfactory, and the upshot is that, if at
> all possible, people end up looking for other programs to fit their needs.
>
> If this is true, then I think that we'll probably be less likely to buy any new
> copies of IDL for Windows and use PCs only as X terminals into Unix and VMS
> workstations with existing licenses.
>
> Bill Thompson
It's true. We just got our upgrade to 4.0 in the mail this week.
Hardware dongle included.

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP
Posted by [thompson](#) on Fri, 19 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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kletzing@unhedi2.unh.edu (Craig Kletzing) writes:

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> craig.kletzing@unh.edu

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workstations with existing licenses.

Bill Thompson

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP

Posted by [gurman](#) on Sat, 20 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <3pirg8\$667@hammer.msfc.nasa.gov>, mallozzi@ssl.msfc.nasa.gov wrote:

>> I just got an e-mail from IDL on Monday which tells me that
>> IDL v. 4.0 for Windows will now require the use of a hardware
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Does anyone know if this policy extends to the Mac as well? IDL betas of versions 3 and 4 have required this (actually, the dongle hangs on the Apple Desktop Bus, to which the keyboard[s] and pointing device[s] are connected, and so is somewhat less burdensome/likely to be lost when a printer or machine is changed out), but not the production versions of IDL 3.m.n.

The only Mac market I know of that relies heavily on dongles in MIDI, and the folks in those Usenet groups seem fairly solidly against the practice, also because of the hassles with laptops.

In a way, this raises the whole issue of IDL license management, since more and more machines are supposed to go wireless in the next few years. This will make it less and less likely that a fixed IP address will work as a security "collateral." I realize that RSI doesn't like to enter this newsgroup (just lurk), but has anyone there thought about this issue?

I ask because we're seriously thinking about getting a PowerPC PowerBook when they're released (purportedly) late this summer, and IDL would be part of the reason for getting such a machine. The higher-end models will come standard with a wireless network interface, which is certainly a lot more convenient when moving from place to place than an AAUI-to-<your flavor of Ethernet here> transceiver plus patch cord plus IDL dongle. (Even HP printers are supposed to be produced with wireless interfaces in the near future, so this is not just Apple's idea of the future of networking.)

Inquiring IDL addicts want to know....

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 & HASP
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Sun, 21 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov (William Thompson) wrote:

> kletzing@unhedi2.unh.edu (Craig Kletzing) writes:
>
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> this approach in the past. It was never satisfactory, and the upshot is
> that, if at all possible, people end up looking for other programs to fit > their needs.

A minor point of information: the dongle was first required on IDL 3.6.1
for Windows, which shipped last September, as I recall. (At least it was on
my copy.)

I, too, don't like dongles. I recall a Usenet posting last year complaining
that IDL couldn't find the dongle when Windows for Workgroups
networking was active. However I have been pleasantly surprised to find that
the same combination has given me no problems.

=====
Mark Hadfield hadfield@storm.greta.cri.nz
NIWA (Taihoro Nukurangi) NIWA.GRETA:HADFIELD
Wellington, New Zealand

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP
Posted by [kspencer](#) on Sun, 21 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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I regret RSI's decision to require dongles with IDL for Windows. But, at least we have an alternative. If VNI doesn't take this route, they may lock up the market for IDL/PV-Wave on PCs.

Kevin

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP

Posted by [kletzing](#) on Mon, 22 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <3pocj3\$i65@zephyr.grace.cri.nz>, Mark Hadfield <hadfield@storm.greta.cri.nz> writes:

|>A minor point of information: the dongle was first required on IDL 3.6.1
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|>that IDL couldn't find the dongle when Windows for Workgroups
|>networking was active. However I have been pleasantly surprised to find that
|>the same combination has given me no problems.
|>

You must have been one of the unlucky `testers'. My IDL 3.6.1a and the less buggy 3.6.1c both ran with no dongle and no mention was ever made of needing one or the possibility of future use of such a device.

Craig Kletzing
craig.kletzing@unh.edu

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP

Posted by [zawodny](#) on Mon, 22 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <3pcq33\$s77@mozz.unh.edu> kletzing@unhedi2.unh.edu writes:

>
> I just got an e-mail from IDL on Monday which tells me that
> IDL v. 4.0 for Windows will now require the use of a hardware
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>
> Craig Kletzing
> craig.kletzing@unh.edu

I am not too pleased with this either. What happens if I have a printer plugged into the parallel port already and the PC sits inaccessibly underneath my desk. Do I have to Run IDL, Unplug HASP, Plug in printer, Print plot, Unplug printer, Plug in HASP, Run IDL some more,... If so this may push us over the edge. All of this paranoid software security seems so unnecessary.

There may be a better way. Lower the price of the initial software so that the primary source of corporate income shifts from initial purchases to a larger base (which arises from the lower initial price) of software maintenance fees and require that all new versions (except for major bug fixes) require a new license. This seems to work for the bulk of PC software companies - they make the majority of their bucks from upgrade fees.

--

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 & HASP
Posted by [thompson](#) on Tue, 23 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov (Joseph M Zawodny) writes:

> I am not too pleased with this either. What happens if I have a
> printer plugged into the parallel port already and the PC sits
> inaccessibly underneath my desk. Do I have to Run IDL, Unplug HASP,
> Plug in printer, Print plot, Unplug printer, Plug in HASP, Run IDL
> some more,... If so this may push us over the edge. All of this
> paranoid software security seems so unnecessary.

If it's like other dongles I've seen in the past, it sits between the computer and the printer. You plug it into the computer, and the printer into it. As I recall, it looked a lot like the sex changes we used to have to use with RS232 connections. It's been years since I last saw one, so my memory may be a little hazy.

> There may be a better way. Lower the price of the initial software so
> that the primary source of corporate income shifts from initial

> purchases to a larger base (which arises from the lower initial price)
> of software maintenance fees and require that all new versions (except
> for major bug fixes) require a new license. This seems to work for
> the bulk of PC software companies - they make the majority of their
> bucks from upgrade fees.

Hear, hear!

Bill Thompson

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP

Posted by [heard](#) on Tue, 23 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In Article <3po7rp\$m8l@vixen.cso.uiuc.edu>, kspencer@s.psych.uiuc.edu (Kevin Spencer) wrote:

> I regret RSI's decision to require dongles with IDL for Windows.
> But, at least we have an alternative. If VNI doesn't take this
> route, they may lock up the market for IDL/PV-Wave on PCs.
>

I agree. We had one piece of software that required a dongle, when we finally did lose it we didn't replace it, we just bought another piece of software that didn't use them. Unfortunately for us, replacing IDL wouldn't be so easy to do. Wave just doesn't seem to have the same capabilities that IDL has. Mathematica and Maple are great for symbolic math, but forget data analysis. MatLab is good, but better for theoreticians than analysts.

You can certainly understand RSI's wanting to protect their investment, but there must be a way around using these dongles. I personally might not be affected by this since I use a Mac and an SGI, but the mere thought of having to plug in one of these things, particularly on a portable, was horrifying enough to make me want to reply.

Any opinions expressed are my own and not necessarily those of my employer.

Garry J. Heard
heard@edrd.dnd.ca

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP

Posted by [Joel Smith](#) on Wed, 24 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Alas, it affects mac users just as much. I have just got a copy to run on a

PowerMac alongside our Suns and sure enough there is the dongle (for 3.6.1 just until the upgrade to 4.0). The difference is that it sits in the ADB chain (on the keyboard cable), but still has the same problem if it gets lost.

I must add my voice to the growing chorus against dongles - I have worked places where the dongles have been lost during re-location, and don't relish having to add to our already high insurance bills - the cost of the dongle works out more than for most high-spec laptops - and is considerably easier to walk off with!

What will be the situation for University locations? It would be very easy for a student to walk off with the dongle as well.

Joel

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP
Posted by [patterso](#) on Wed, 24 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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I wonder what made RSI go down the dongle route? Has there really been that much piracy of IDL on PC Clones?

Also, I thought dongles had been shown to be the one thing that annoyed paying customers most, and one of the easiest things for Pirates to crack if they are so determined to have the software?

I'd love to hear the reasons behind this from RSI.

Tim

Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP
Posted by [lmudge](#) on Fri, 26 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article e36@newsstand.cit.cornell.edu, patterso@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu (Tim Patterson) writes:

> Andy Jones (jones@terra.cira.colostate.edu) wrote:
> : It's true. We just got our upgrade to 4.0 in the mail this week.
> : Hardware dongle included.
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> Hmm...I think RSI's marketing bods need to do a complete re-think
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> customer support becomes in areas like this. Can piracy of IDL
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>

> Tim

David Stern (inventer of IDL) claims that in some countries they have only sold one copy of IDL for Windows and find it is being used extensively throughout the country!!!

Leith Mudge

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Subject: Re: IDL 4.0 & HASP
Posted by [fskmjm](#) on Wed, 31 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <3q3rcpINNa9v@myall.awadi.com.au> lmudge@awadi.com.au (Leith Mudge) writes:

> In article e36@newsstand.cit.cornell.edu, patterso@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu (Tim Patterson) writes:

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>> Tim

> David Stern (inventer of IDL) claims that in some countries they have only sold
> one copy of IDL for Windows and find it is being used extensively throughout the
> country!!!

> Leith Mudge

This proves that there are lots of people who would very much like to use IDL, but can't afford it.

This could all be solved if the product was priced more reasonably.

Mike Mathews
