
Subject: Is there a cheap implementation of IDL
Posted by [aunitt](#) on Thu, 24 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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I want to be able to run IDL cheaply.

Are there any shareware / freeware / cheap implementations available?

Thanks in advance.

Ashley

Subject: Re: Is there a cheap implementation of IDL
Posted by [steinhh](#) on Wed, 30 Oct 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <32776FA3.5444@ssec.wisc.edu>, Liam Gumley <liam.gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> writes:

|>
|> Ashley Unitt wrote:
|> > I want to be able to run IDL cheaply.
|> > Are there any shareware / freeware / cheap implementations available?
|>
|> [.snip..]
|> (2) There are a couple of formats that you *can* save to disk while
|> in demo mode. One of them is Postscript. The other is HDF (SDS mode
|> anyway). You can do a lot with just these two output formats - maybe
|> there are others that I don't know about - I discovered these by
|> accident.
|>
|> So give the IDL demo version a try. You might find you can do a lot
|> with it.

So, even if RSI closes the HDF loophole, the clever user simply
develops a routine to read back data *from* a PS-file, and voila, there
you have a fully-functional 7-minute version of IDL 8-)

Stein Vidar
(Sorry, I couldn't resist..)

Subject: Re: Is there a cheap implementation of IDL
Posted by [gunter](#) on Wed, 30 Oct 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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Ashley Unitt (aunitt@mail.bogo.co.uk) wrote:
: I want to be able to run IDL cheaply.

:
: Are there any shareware / freeware / cheap implementations available?
:
: Thanks in advance.
:
: Ashley

The last IDL newsletter I saw (volume 6 no. 1) mentioned the availability of educational pricing. It expired on June 30th according to the notice, but perhaps they'll extend this pricing again. For info they list Donna Carr at donna@rsinc.com or 303.786.9900 by phone. No actual price is listed in the letter.

--
david gunter
<http://www.mcs.anl.gov/people/gunter/>

"When you are a Bear of Very Little Brain, and you Think of Things, you find sometimes that a Thing which seemed very Thingish inside you is quite different when it gets out into the open and has other people looking at it."
- A.A. Milne, "The House At Pooh Corner"

Subject: Re: Is there a cheap implementation of IDL
Posted by [Tim Patterson](#) on Wed, 30 Oct 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:

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> In article <32776FA3.5444@ssec.wisc.edu>, Liam Gumley <liam.gumley@ssec.wisc.edu>
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> develops a routine to read back data *from* a PS-file, and voila, there

> you have a fully-functional 7-minute version of IDL 8-)
>
> Stein Vidar
> (Sorry, I couldn't resist..)

Is CALL_EXTERNAL still available in the demo mode (I forget!)
If so, there's another way to write out data!

Tim

Subject: Re: Is there a cheap implementation of IDL
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Wed, 30 Oct 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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Ashley Unitt wrote:

> I want to be able to run IDL cheaply.
> Are there any shareware / freeware / cheap implementations available?

RSI makes IDL available via their FTP site at <ftp://ftp.rsinc.com>
Windows, Linux, and Macintosh versions are available for
lower end hardware.

The downloadable versions are fully functional, except for the
following important restrictions:

- (1) IDL runs for 7 minutes, then quits.
- (2) You cannot write/save anything to disk within IDL.

However it's not as bad as it sounds. I have used IDL in demo mode
more than once to get work done when a licensed version was not
available due to hardware problems, and my experience has been that

- (1) Because you can only run IDL for 7 minutes, you quickly learn
to write IDL procedures - this is a good thing in my opinion!
- (2) There are a couple of formats that you *can* save to disk while
in demo mode. One of them is Postscript. The other is HDF (SDS mode
anyway). You can do a lot with just these two output formats - maybe
there are others that I don't know about - I discovered these by
accident.

So give the IDL demo version a try. You might find you can do a lot
with it.

Cheers,
Liam.

Subject: Re: Is there a cheap implementation of IDL
Posted by [Joseph M Zawodny](#) on Thu, 31 Oct 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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David Gunter wrote:

>
> Ashley Unitt (aunitt@mail.bogo.co.uk) wrote:
> : I want to be able to run IDL cheaply.
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> donna@rsinc.com or 303.786.9900 by phone. No actual price is listed in the
> letter.

Yes, but there is educational pricing and then there is educational pricing.

Case in point, AutoCAD normally costs in the vicinity of \$3K.

Educational

versions with full functionality can be had for \$175! It does make sense to

let the "kids" learn it at little or no cost and then they'll convince their

employers to buy it at "retail" when they graduate and get jobs. Now I have

always maintained that is also makes sense to have a similar discount for

users to have a home copy. While this has been offered to folks who run Linux (and perhaps more recently for PCs) it was still price, in my estimation,

too high at \$500. If it were \$200, I'd buy it for home.

Just another \$0.02,

JMZ

--

Work: Dr. Joseph M. Zawodny Play: Joe Zawodny

NASA Langley Research Center KO4LW@amsat.org

E-mail: J.M.Zawodny@LaRC.NASA.gov zawodny@exis.net

(757) 864-2681 (757) 864-2671 FAX

Subject: Re: Is there a cheap implementation of IDL
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Thu, 31 Oct 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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Tim Patterson wrote:

>
> Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:
>>
>> In article <32776FA3.5444@ssec.wisc.edu>, Liam Gumley <liam.gumley@ssec.wisc.edu>
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>
> Is CALL_EXTERNAL still available in the demo mode (I forget!)
> If so, there's another way to write out data!
>
> Tim

I do not believe that CALL_EXTERNAL is available in demo mode.

Dave

--

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David S. Foster      Univ. of California, San Diego  
Programmer/Analyst   Brain Image Analysis Laboratory  
foster@bial1.ucsd.edu   Department of Psychiatry  
(619) 622-5892      8950 Via La Jolla Drive, Suite 2200  
                    La Jolla, CA 92037  
                    [ UCSD Mail Code 0949 ]  
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