
Subject: Announcing Availability of ION (IDL On the NET) Version 1.0

Posted by [info](#) on Wed, 03 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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The first commercial release of ION (IDL On the Net) is now available for purchase. Using Java and Internet technology, ION delivers powerful data analysis and visualization capabilities to Web clients.

ION is an easy-to-use, web server-based system that brings the power of Research Systems' IDL (Interactive Data Language) to Internet clients. ION is designed for organizations with employees around the country and/or around the world who need to access, visualize and analyze shared data. ION can reside on the customer's public web server, a proprietary intranet server, or both.

ION allows access to IDL's advanced analysis and visualization capabilities from virtually any computer in the world. Updating and maintaining ION is simple, as the product resides only on the web server, not on the desktop clients.

ION is a sophisticated Internet implementation of IDL 5.0, Research Systems' fourth-generation programming language (4GL) for engineers, scientists and software developers building data analysis and data visualization applications.

ION is a superset of IDL, carrying full IDL capabilities. ION licenses can be used as conventional IDL multi-user node-locked licenses. ION has many additional features not found in IDL, including a network graphics driver, security administration, client validation utilities, connection management and logging, Java classes, applets and extensive ION-specific examples and documentation.

Because ION is built on IDL, applications already written in IDL can be easily converted for access over the Internet, making the product immediately useful for existing IDL customers. In addition, ION is simple to use, requiring only basic knowledge of IDL and HTML. Pre-built Java applets are included with the product, so there is no need to become a Java programmer to use ION. However, full Java integration is provided for those users who wish to develop custom Java applications that work in concert with ION.

ION is licensed based on concurrent Web connections, with 2, 7, 12 and unlimited concurrent connection licenses available. ION connections are typically more transient than conventional network use of IDL. Once a page has been loaded and the ION-generated analysis or graphics are generated, the connection to ION is disconnected. The actual connection time is the interval when ION is actively processing and/or delivering graphics. This is different from network use of IDL, where the IDL license is checked-out

at startup and doesn't return until IDL is exited.

ION supports Windows NT and all popular versions of UNIX, including Linux and Solaris X86. In keeping with its web-based nature, every effort has been made to make ION a "virtual product". Customers download ION and subsequent updates from Research Systems' website. All documentation is online in a HTML-based help system. Commercial pricing starts at \$6,995. Quantity and academic discounts are available to qualified customers.

Additional information can be obtained from the ION area of Research Systems' home page: <http://www.rsinc.com>.

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