
Subject: Re: IDL LICENSING MADNESS

Posted by [jones](#) on Wed, 04 Aug 1993 14:57:20 GMT

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In article <23lpo6\$gea@vixen.cso.uiuc.edu>, kemp@uiatma.atmos.uiuc.edu (John Kemp) writes:

>

> I have some questions on licensing for IDL.

... deleted blurb ...

>

> According to the blurbs, there are 4 types of licenses:

> 1) Floating network

> 2) Single-User, Node-Locked

> 3) Multi-User, Node-Locked (allows up to 6)

> 4) Unlimited-user, node-lock

>

> Here's our situation. We would probably want to have IDL

> running on 4 workstations. The breakdown would probably

> be DEC5000, HP720, HP735, HP735. At any one time 2-3 people

> might be running the product on a single machine, with a maximum

> of 6-8 users running the product at once on the whole network.

> All these machines are on the same network.

>

> The idea would be that the 4 owners of the machines would

> all pitch in to reduce expenses, and presumably save money

> by all of them going in at the same time for one purchase.

>

> The sales pinhead suggested we get 1 Node-Lock license [single? multi?]

> and 3 Floating licenses. He didn't explain why, and I don't see how

> this fits our situation.

>

> Can someone who understands this silliness send me some

> e-mail?

>

> What is a floating license [in English]?

>

> What is a node-locked license [in English]?

>

> Why would you mix the two?

>

> What would you recommend?

>

> Gotta love it,

> ----- john kemp (()_ internet - johnkemp@uiuc.edu

> ----- ((_)

> --- univ of illinois (_ (_) bitnet - {uunet,convex}

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> - 105 s gregory ave ... phone - (217) 333-6881

> - urbana, il 61801 ... fax - (217) 244-4393

>

John, I am not an expert on RSI's licensing system, but from your configuration it would appear that the motives might be that the DEC5000 would have a unique version of IDL with one node-locked license, and the 3 HP systems could share the 3 floating network licenses. This would allow all your systems to be used simultaneously. I believe the crux of the problem is that the version of IDL on the DEC system will not run on the HP systems (and vise-versa). There is therefore no need for a floating license on the DEC since it can not "float" to any other machine. If more than one user will be typical on the DEC machine than a multiple user-nodelocked license might be in order, otherwise save some money with the single user license for the DEC machine.

Hope this helps.

Andy.

Andrew S. Jones
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Subject: Re: IDL LICENSING MADNESS
Posted by [thompson](#) on Thu, 05 Aug 1993 13:57:10 GMT
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jones@phobos.cira.colostate.edu (Andy Jones) writes:

> In article <23lp06\$gea@vixen.cso.uiuc.edu>, kemp@uiatma.atmos.uiuc.edu (John Kemp)
writes:

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I don't think this is true. The binary executable would have to be different,
but I think that the *licenses* can float between machines of different
architectures--even between VMS and Unix. This is what I've heard, but I don't
have any actual experience with it.

Bill Thompson

Subject: Re: IDL LICENSING MADNESS
Posted by [jones](#) on Thu, 05 Aug 1993 14:37:41 GMT
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In article <thompson.744559030@serts.gsfc.nasa.gov>, thompson@serts.gsfc.nasa.gov (William Thompson) writes:

> jones@phobos.cira.colostate.edu (Andy Jones) writes:

>

>> In article <23lpo6\$gea@vixen.cso.uiuc.edu>, kemp@uiatma.atmos.uiuc.edu (John Kemp) writes:

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> Bill Thompson

Good point. Does anyone have any experience with mixed workstation environments

and licenses out there? I'd be interested to find out.

Andy Jones

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Subject: Re: IDL LICENSING MADNESS
Posted by [dpf](#) on Fri, 06 Aug 1993 17:01:29 GMT
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jones@phobos.cira.colostate.edu (Andy Jones) writes:

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> Good point. Does anyone have any experience with mixed workstation environments
> and licenses out there? I'd be interested to find out.

Yes, floating network licenses *can* be used across different architectures. We have three floating licenses that are used across several Suns, two RS/6000s and an SGI. If you take a look at the idl executable itself, you will see that it is actually a shell script that figures out what architecture you are on, and then starts the correct binary.

Thus, our IDL directory has a generic bin directory, as well as bin.ibm, bin.sgi, and bin.sunos.4.1.sun4 (all as named by RSI, not us). In our case, all of this is on a "/usr1" partition that is NFS-mounted from a server to all appropriate machines (even across architecture boundaries).

In addition to these floating licenses, we also have a node-locked license. The advantage of this setup, we figured, is that users can access IDL from their local workstation, and are only forced to go to the server (and setenv DISPLAY, etc) when the three licenses are in use by others. And since the server license is not limited, as many users as the server can support can use it.

We have had the one fixed license for many years, but it sounds like our current setup is much like what RSI is suggesting to John Kemp. There are, of course, other ways to do it, but it works for us.

Hope this helps.

David

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+-----+
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|Compton Gamma Ray Observatory                |
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+-----+
```

Subject: Re: IDL LICENSING MADNESS

Posted by [frank](#) on Wed, 11 Aug 1993 21:39:35 GMT

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I think that the floating license does not mean the executable binary is floating around but rather the license key the application need will be getting from some license server running on the network. This involves some network communication. However, for the node-locked case, the application only look into a file somewhere in your local machine to get the license key(a scrambled alphanumeric sequence generated from your hostname, host IP, and when the license expire).

The license server software running on our SGI machines is developed by HP and maybe it is been used by several other platform. Last week I just installed SGI's CaseVision/WorkShop and I went thru lots of trouble to get the license server running. And to my surprise, I did not see any other product using the license server(although there are more than 20 servers running and it should cover half on the GSFC campus).

Although I use the license server, my licenses are still not the floating license. I splited into two half so that one machine got 3 license and the other got 1.

I believe that what sales meant was each machine has a node-locked license and three floating licenses can be used by anyone from any machine.

If you have node-locked license, you can run on that node even the network or license server die. As for floating license, you can use all the licenses even one node is dead. However, if the license server is dead or the machine running the license server is dead, or the connection to that machine is dead, no on can run the application.

Hope this help.

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