

# Scientific Computing Division Policy on Support for Scientific Computing Applications under Mac OS X:

SCD Scientific Technical Architecture Group, March 2014, DRAFT

## Strategic Goals

The goal of this policy is to provide guidance for support of Mac OS X scientific computing applications by the Scientific Computing Division (SCD).

## Policy

- SCD projects, programs, services and efforts may offer limited support for scientific computing applications under Mac OS X. Examples include software development, monitoring and event displays, and single user data analysis. Support for batch processing, data acquisition, multi-user analyses, production data processing and simulation are not currently agreed to.
- Before an activity within SCD offers Mac OS X support for a scientific computing application the impact on other efforts and activities must be clearly understood and the necessary external support agreed to.
- If SCD offers Mac OS X support for a scientific computing application, the software and effort required should be clearly identified in the corresponding project plans and/or the relevant service catalog and service level agreement (SLA).
- In some cases the customer(s) for a scientific application currently supported by SCD on a different OS port the application to, and demonstrate the ongoing utility of its use, on Mac OS X. The management of the customer's organization can request that the SCD take over the ongoing support and distribution. SCD management will evaluate and decide on this request and its impact in the same manner as for any other request for support.
- SCD agreement to the support of a scientific application under Mac OS X covers upgrades to new versions of the OS. The schedule for release and support of the new version will be handled in the same manner as prioritization of other work and OS upgrades.

## Assumptions

1. At this time this support is offered on the understanding that there is no impact on, nor expectation from, the underlying core computing services.
2. The management of an activity within SCD may elect to internally support Mac OS X as a development platform for productivity purposes.

## Examples

Use cases are not to be completely prescriptive but to guide aspects of implementation of the policy:

### 1. Experiment Request to Support SCD Software Package on Mac OS X

Muon g-2 has asked the art project to support experiment application development under Mac OS X. This falls within the constraints of the first bullet of the policy. The art project will document the expected impact of and agreements to support this request both internal to the project and external groups e.g. a) ~effort to build and test releases of art on Mac OS X, b) expected new releases of Mac OS X and how much effort is typically needed to support such transitions c) what other software support is needed external to art to support this .e.g need for ups, Geant4, and other software releases to be available on Mac OS X; purchases and effort for build and distribution machines.

2. Support for internal SCD developers using Mac OS X

A software development group assesses that developing codes on Mac OS X is most effort and cost effective. The group manager needs to understand and document the impact on scale and performance of machines needed, upgrade cycles and get agreement of the desktop services group for any variances from the EPEAT and recommended desktops and/or servers that are needed.