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Subject: Re: IDL performance and FFTs (was: call external speed)  
Posted by [David Kastrup](#) on Thu, 17 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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Karl Krieger <kak@ipp.mpg.de> writes:

> BTW: I very much doubt if it's against the GPL to distribute code,  
> which refers to subroutine libraries under GPL as long as I do not  
> include these routines or a compiled binary.

If the interface is unique to the GPL software, you are creating a derived work, as it is of no use without the GPL binary and is intended to link with it. The interface itself, however, is usually not considered copyrightable. So if you distribute a lousy implementation of fftw with the same interface along with your wrapper routines, one would have problems suing you in court.

It then becomes the problem of the person dropping in the real fftw. As long as \*he\* does not distribute the compiled form of fftw... If he, however, distributes the stuff in an aggregation of useful subroutines, which happens to be on the same disk as the implementation including the lousy fftw.

Muddy waters.

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