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Subject: Re: copyright practices  
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Thu, 07 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
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Kenneth Mankoff <mankoff@nagik.cs.colorado.edu> wrote in message  
news:Pine.GHP.4.05.9910062117390.24399-100000@nagik.cs.colorado.edu...  
> What are the common practices for distributing software created in IDL?

Check out the GNU Public License:  
<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/copyleft.html>

> Do i need to give credit to RSI?

If you are distributing IDL source, then the answer is no. It would be like  
crediting Kernighan and Ritchie in a C program.

> Can i do the following:  
> ;; (c) 1999 me

As previous posters have said, this is probably insufficient. If you really  
want to give away source code, then check out the GPL above.

> What are you doing when you make your programs accessible to the public?

Write a program.

Test it.

Debug it.

Get your colleagues to test it.

Debug it some more.

Create a web page which

- contains a link to the source code and any required support routines,
- explains what the program does,
- gives examples of how to run the program,
- shows screenshots if necessary,
- explains any restrictions (e.g. IDL version required, cases where it won't work).

Announce the program in comp.lang.idl-pvwave.

Debug it some more when someone emails you with a bug you never anticipated.

Update the program.

Cheers,

Liam.

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

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