
Subject: Re: IDL Shareware

Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Fri, 14 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Andy Loughe, loughe@fsl.noaa.gov writes:

- > How would this shareware concept work for those who
- > work in Government Laboratories... can the Gov't
- > cut you a check?

I can only speak for my university (Lund, Sweden), but it can write and accept checks from individuals. There is a certain amount of setup that has to be done the first time an entity gets paid, so for onetime shareware fees I tend to pay the fee myself and get the money reimbursed - which, paradoxically, is bureaucratically more acceptable than paying direct.

Perhaps more of a problem would be that many of the potential writers of IDL shareware are in receipt of US federal funds, and Uncle Sam gets stroppy about charging the taxpayer twice. This is why all the NASA images are public domain. Still, simply having a central shareware archive would be nice, and those who did the programming on the guvmint's time could set a fee of \$0.

Struan
