
Subject: Re: GIF again.....

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Sat, 06 Jan 2001 01:14:51 GMT

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"Richard G. French" wrote:

>

> After 5.4 came out, there were a lot of posts about the disappearance
> of the GIF writer and reader routines. Can any of you experts tell me
> about the legality of using shareware C code that reads and writes
> GIF files, originally used as part of the XV program that displays
> lots of image types on UNIX boxes? The idea would be to write
> wrapper routines that could call WriteGIF and ReadGIF in the XV
> code so that GIF writing and reading could be restored in IDL.

>

> These routines are in the pub/xv subdirectory of
> ftp.cis.upenn.edu

>

> If this is not legal, does it mean that XV is not legal,
> either, even if you pay the registration fee?

>

> Has anyone come up with a legal scheme under UNIX to
> read and write GIF files? If you have to pay a license fee, does
> anyone know what the fee would be for a single user?

> Thanks for any hints on workarounds.

> Dick French

<http://www.imagemagick.org/>

Seems to be the way to go. Some enterprising tester of Ronn Kling's book could even create a DLM which links to the ImageMagick libraries and write GIF's directly. Given that PNG is a better format (<http://www.libpng.org/pub/png/pngintro.html>), especially for the web, maybe the interim convert-from-png route is preferable. We don't want to make writing GIF's *too* easy. For those who don't know of the GIF (or rather LZW compression) issue:

<http://cloanto.com/users/mcb/19950127giflzw.html>

JD
