
Subject: Re: GIF again.....

Posted by [Jeff Guerber](#) on Sat, 06 Jan 2001 01:23:39 GMT

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Dick,

xv's current home is <http://www.trilon.com/xv/>. I seem to recall seeing something there (although I can't find it now) indicating that GIF licensing is the reason there hasn't been a complete, new version of xv since 3.10a in 1994! (I am not a lawyer, so I'll refrain from taking this any further. Actually, I always thought that it was only writing GIFs that was illegal; but, as I said, IANAL.) We're looking into working around the lack of GIF support in IDL by using PNG (which was developed by the W3C itself) instead :-).

(The Web site does have a number of patches you can apply to the 3.10a sources; my system manager recently rebuilt our copy with the patches, and they seem to work great. Not that it helps for what you want to do.)

Usual disclamers apply: IANAL, I don't speak for NASA or Raytheon, etc. etc.

Jeff Guerber

On Fri, 5 Jan 2001, 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