
Subject: Re: gif license

Posted by [Dennis Boccippio](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2001 05:41:02 GMT

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In article <onwv1drj29.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>,
Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote:

> Dennis Boccippio <djboccip@hotmail.com> writes:
>> Thanks for the info, Michael. Haven't heard back from Unisys yet
>> ourselves but was wondering whether the other shoe would drop or not
>> (sounds like it will). I'm assuming your questionnaire responses were
>> of the 'we have no interest in turning a profit off of LZW in IDL'
>> variety?
>>
>> Has anybody successfully gotten a freebie Unisys agreement?
>>
>> - Dennis Boccippio, NASA/MSFC SD-60
>
> One should also be aware that the original patent held by Unisys,
>
> US4558302: High speed data compression and decompression
> apparatus and method
>
> is due to expire in June of 2003. Before one spends a serious amount
> of money on the license, one should also look at the time frame.
>
> Craig

Update: we got hit with the \$475 'processing fee' as well (NASA/MSFC for their 'governmental use' agreement) but no other fees. Restrictions include no redistribution of software incorporating LZW functionality, which I read to mean we can't send homegrown IDL code with READ_GIF/WRITE_GIF functionality to our data users. Debating whether or not its worth it... the 6/03 expiration info is helpful...

- DJB
