
Subject: Re: Examine "Saved" IDL procedures now too!
Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Tue, 26 Mar 2002 12:47:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Mon, 25 Mar 2002, Pavel Romashkin wrote:

> I am sure many people would love to be able to decompile commercial products
> into source code. Also known as hacking. This is what I think we are seeing
> here.

Decompilers and other such tools have existed and been used for years. I think you are confusing the difference between the existence of a tool and the malicious use of a tool. Software licenses are what should prevent a user from maliciously hacking code.

For those 'programmers-for-hire' that are annoyed by Craig's library, I suggest that you contact RSI. However, I doubt that RSI ever claimed the IDL sav file format was a secure way to distribute source code as they knew the source code was relatively easy to recover.

> I am sure it is far from impossible to, say, fish out IDL's license code
> from its binary and post the hack all over the internet, but I doubt it
> would be the right thing to do.

I agree it is wrong. Moreover, it would violate the IDL license agreement and therefore give RSI the opportunity to take legal action.

> I indeed agree that ability to make executables is what we all want but I
> don't think that this way we are any closer to that. And a lot of code that
> developers might not want to disclose is wide open now.

I honestly hope this isn't the case. Nevertheless, most developers should be distributing license agreements or have contracts with customers that clearly state the software terms of use.

Cheers,
Randall
