
Subject: Re: Examine "Saved" IDL procedures now too!

Posted by [A. D. & J.C. Cool](#) on Tue, 26 Mar 2002 10:11:38 GMT

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Pavel Romashkin wrote:

>
> Given that quite a few people invest time and effort into writing code for
> others for living, I don't feel good about this. Although I appreciate
> technical challenge, I have asked Craig before not to release his library.
> But I guess the urge for fame got the best of him :-(
> 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.
> 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.
> Sorry,
> Pavel
> P.S. I do not make money writing IDL programs.

I'm surprised that so few have responded to this momentous thread - it
must
truly be a Hot Potato!

I disagree with Pavel.

I can see a good use within my work area of being able to check just
what code went
into locally produced SAVE files.

We have a terribly convoluted Configuration Management system forced
upon us by
civilian contractors, and IDL does not sit happily in it, what with it's
propensity
to pick up the first file matching a routine. Yes, there are nice Config
man
systems out there, but we don't have the choice in using them.

I've debated Craig's work with Richard Cooke, President of RSI, today,
but we ended
up agreeing to disagree. Surely it's better for RSI to walk hand in hand
with Craig now,
rather than slap his wrist, as now that the IDL community knows that it
is feasible
to decode SAVE files of routines, some nefarious character is sure to
emulate Craig's
effort on the sly, and start a blackmarket that RSI has little control
over.

For all the Americans, I guess it's a bit like COLT - no one sues them because some idiot did the wrong thing with their product. There's honest folk, and there's not.

Now that orta stir something...

NB : I work for the Government, meaning I do not make money writing IDL programs either :-(

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