Subject: Re: Examine "Saved" IDL procedures now too! Posted by A. D. & D. & amp; J.C. Cool on Tue, 26 Mar 2002 10:11:38 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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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