
Subject: sec : U Re: travelling idl license

Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Thu, 26 Sep 2002 03:04:26 GMT

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Randall Skelton wrote:

>
> On Wed, 25 Sep 2002, Andrew Cool wrote:
>
>> Hi Randall,
>>
>> On Windows at least, the MS Information tool will return the serial
>> number of the Hard Drive.
>
> Hi Andrew,
>
> Unfortunately, these 'serial numbers' are not at all related to the
> physical disk but rather, are an IBM/Microsoft concoction designed
> originally to allow the windows to keep track of which disk is which.
> Basically, in 1987 when Microsoft and IBM were co-developing OS/2, they
> wanted to write a system that would automatically recognize a disk (hard
> disk, floppy, optical, etc) like a Macintosh could do in system 6. Thus,
> a 4-byte, 'volume serial number' (VSN) residing in the boot sector was
> added to the standard DOS format. When a disk is formatted in windows it
> is stamped with this four-byte number which is constructed from the exact
> date and time the format operation was performed. Utilities like disk
> copy will copy everything except this four-byte string. However, there
> are many other utilities that can change this field to match any desired
> time stamp so it is hardly a viable method of copy protection-- this, of
> course, doesn't prevent some companies from using it.
>
> So there are really 2 noteworthy points. Firstly, the VSN was never
> intended to be used as a firm method of authentication. While the byte
> code format and location in the boot sector has changed for FAT16, FAT32,
> NTFS, etc, the specifications are wide open and the number is easy to
> spoof (see <<http://www.sysinternals.com/ntw2k/source/misc.shtml>> and look
> for the utility named 'volumeid'). Second, it is impossible to have IDL
> for *nix and Windows on the same physical disk with the license tied to
> the VSN because provision for including it are not made by other file
> systems (ext2, xfs, ufs, hfs, hfs+, etc). There are no provisions in the
> IDE or SCSI interface specifications to provide a unique hardware id.
>
> At this point, the only way to physically license software is with a
> dongle (i.e. HASP) or an ethernet card.
>
> Cheers,
> Randall

Hiya Randall,

You lost me about line 3, I think. But below is what I know can be done. Three doors down the corridor from me is a guy running this licence on a dual boot Windows/Linux laptop.

Keyed to the DSN, no less.

I've changed the encryption sequences least anybody gets any funny ideas ;-)

Regards,

Andrew

```
INCREMENT idl_drawx idl_lmgrp 1.000 1-jan-0000 0 FB06C092384AD3DD4DD3 \
  VENDOR_STRING="4434Surv Systems Div, DSTOS" \
  HOSTID=HOSTNAME=lightstar ck=2
INCREMENT idl_drawx idl_lmgrp 1.000 1-jan-0000 0 4BB651F188C648B20C26 \
  VENDOR_STRING="4434-1Surv Systems Div, DSTOS" \
  HOSTID=DISK_SERIAL_NUM=d82b5aef ck=191
INCREMENT insight idl_lmgrp 2.000 1-jan-0000 0 8B1390B18418A5C7B8CC \
  VENDOR_STRING="4434Surv Systems Div, DSTOS" \
  HOSTID=HOSTNAME=lightstar ck=13
INCREMENT insight idl_lmgrp 2.000 1-jan-0000 0 8B567002F73BD110364D \
  VENDOR_STRING="4434-1Surv Systems Div, DSTOS" \
  HOSTID=DISK_SERIAL_NUM=d82b5aef ck=217
INCREMENT idl idl_lmgrp 5.400 1-jan-0000 0 CDF662815FF028A145E8 \
  VENDOR_STRING="4434Surv Systems Div, DSTOS" \
  HOSTID=HOSTNAME=lightstar ck=37
INCREMENT idl idl_lmgrp 5.400 1-jan-0000 0 8BB6F0C1549A12E40A95 \
  VENDOR_STRING="4434-1Surv Systems Div, DSTOS" \
  HOSTID=DISK_SERIAL_NUM=d82b5aef ck=15
#
--
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