
Subject: Re: IDL, GDL, copyright, EULAs and such
Posted by [Edd Edmondson](#) on Wed, 06 Jul 2005 21:02:09 GMT
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Haje Korth <haje.korth@jhuapl.edu> wrote:

> I don't get the point: Why use GDL if you already have a licensed copy of
> IDL. I see GDL as an alternative solutions for people who cannot cough up
> the \$\$\$ for the in my opinion overprized IDL license fees. Since you already
> own IDL, just ignore the fact that it does way more than your brain can
> handle and live happily ever after. :-)

That is not the point of the G in GDL, even if the project was created
because some group of people could not afford the \$\$\$.

I could sell GDL for more money than IDL sells for, although I'd
likely not sell many copies as anyone else able to get their hands on
it, including my own customers could resell it at any price. It is
that which makes GDL inexpensive above anything else, and that's a
side effect of the real purpose of GPL'd software.

The real strength of GDL being free is that I can change it. I could
fix any bugs in it, and I could add features as I wish and do almost
anything with it I choose. So, whilst there may not currently be
reasons to use GDL over IDL if you own the latter, that isn't
necessarily true in the future, and indeed in rare cases may not even
be true now.

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Edd
