Subject: Re: .sav format
Posted by JD Smith on Tue, 30 Jan 2007 17:58:11 GMT
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On Tue, 30 Jan 2007 09:40:51 -0800, mgalloy@gmail.com wrote:

> On Jan 30, 6:21 am, "Haje Korth" <haje.ko...@nospam.jhuapl.edu> wrote:
>> Here is what I don't understand. In the first part of the notice that is
>> embedded in the sav files says that ANY reverse engineering is prohibited.
>> It does not distinguish between data and code elements. Thus it is my
>> understanding that nobody will ever be legally allowed to develop any
>> routine that messes with the sav file since it would automatically mean that
>> you would have to apply some sort of reverse engineering magic. The second
>> part of the notice says that I need a license for any non-RSI software that
>> reads/writes sav files. Doesn't that mean that anyone applying for such
>> license automatically incriminates himself/herself???
>
> I don't understand that either. Maybe apply for the license before
> doing the work? (I'm not a lawyer either.)

I think it was just a way to "grandfather in" Craig's work, which
occurred before they had such an explicit policy.

If you, like me, dislike closed and protected data formats (by the
DCMA, no less!), do let ITTVIS know. I mean, even Microsoft is being
forced to consider "open" XML formats for Word files, by government
agencies who refuse to be locked into data types over which they have
no control.

The ability to share data and use it in a variety of different ways is
fundamental to the progress of science. I use SAV files personally
since they are so convenient, but I will not distribute them, and I
always assume they have little long-term archival value. That, to me,
diminishes the value of IDL and its default file format. Luckily,
there are many other types of open, standard formats to choose from
(FITS, HDF, etc.). None offer the convenient mapping to IDL
variables/pointers/etc., but at least they can be read back in in 20
years.

JD