Subject: Re: .sav format
Posted by Haje Korth on Tue, 30 Jan 2007 13:21:49 GMT

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Mike,
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 am a scientist not a lawyer (if I where a lawyer I probably would not use
IDL as my tool of the trade) and I don't really understand this legal mumbo
jumbo (nor will I ever intend to understand it). Therefore I stay away from
using sav files and use any of the other numerous file formats that are
cross plattform, cross program compatible.

I wonder why Christopher was set on sav files and needed the docs? I guess
he never explained, so I may be overlooking something.

Haje

<mgalloy@gmail.com> wrote in message
 news:1170101297.922961.279850@q2g2000cwa.googlegroups.com...
> Interesting. More poking around at Craig's site, reveals the following
> license for CMSVLIB:
>
>   http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/down/LICENSE.RSI
>
> In particular, note point 5:
>
> ; 5. Allowed use of this software is limited to reading and writing
> ;   IDL variable related portions of IDL Save files. It may not be
> ;   used as a basis for reverse engineering, or otherwise
> ;   accessing any other portions of an IDL save file, including but
> ;   not limited to, those portions that encode executable IDL
> programs.
> ;   Such use is in violation of the IDL EULA, and will be prosecuted
> ;   to the fullest extent possible by Research Systems, Inc. It is
> ;   permissible to read such sections of an IDL save file for the
> ;   sole purpose of transferring it without examination or
> interpretation
> ;   to another save file.

>
> So it appears you would need a similar license from ITTVIS for
> examining data .sav files (i.e. directly examining, there is an
> IDL_Savefile class in IDL 6.1 that can do a lot of this for data .sav
> files anyway) and it is strictly forbidden to examine code .sav files.
>
> Mike
> --
> www.michaelgalloy.com
>