
Subject: Re: .sav format

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sun, 11 Feb 2007 21:47:53 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> writes:

> On Sun, 04 Feb 2007 02:04:09 -0500, Craig Markwardt wrote:

>

>>

>> "mgalloy@gmail.com" <mgalloy@gmail.com> writes:

>>> On Jan 29, 1:49 pm, JD Smith <jdsm...@as.arizona.edu> wrote:

>>>> The license grants "the author of this software, and to all IDL users,

>>>> a license to use and redistribute this software in source or binary

>>>> form, subject to the following conditions", so they've already given

>>>> us the license (restrictive though it may be).

>>>

>>> To "use and redistribute this software" (i.e. CMSVLIB), but the

>>> original poster wanted documentation of the .sav format (presumably so

>>> they could write their own software).

>>

>> The documentation of the format is unencumbered by any license other

>> than Creative Commons.

>

> The "license" does seem to indicate that *anyone* needs permission to

> create a tool to read .SAV files, whether or not they have agreed to an

> EULA:

>

> "Non-RSI supplied software that reads or writes files in the IDL

> Save/Restore format must have a license from Research Systems

> explicitly granting the right to do so. In this case, the license

> will be included with the software for your inspection. Please

> report software that does not have such a license to

> Research Systems, Inc."

J.D., RSI can claim whatever it wants, but legally they have no control over users who do not hold an IDL license.

> They haven't yet wielded the DMCA hammer, but I don't doubt that they

> would if they felt it necessary. There is a reverse engineering clause

> in the DMCA, but I'm not sure to what degree it applies:

Since IDL save files (with data only) are not encrypted or scrambled in any way, they are not covered by the anti-circumvention provisions of the DMCA. Furthermore, since the data is (presumably) *your own*, you have your own authority to grant permission to extract the information from the file.

> I for once don't see the point in so jealously guarding a format: it's a

> perfect way to ensure it never sees wide use.

A good point!
Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
