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 <idsm...@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

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