
Subject: Re: Creating machine-specific, licensed IDL software

Posted by [b_gom](#) on Mon, 17 Dec 2007 19:40:55 GMT

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You need to decide how 'secure' you want to be, and make a trade-off with usability and difficulty of implementation. In the past, I've used MAC addresses to lock an application, but this isn't necessarily tamper proof for advanced users. This is easy to implement, though, since all modern machines will have at least one network connection, and getting the MAC address is straightforward. You will need to have a registration process where the user will submit their MAC address (or some bytecode generated from it) to you, and you will provide an unlock code in return. There is an encryption algorithm on the ITT IDL user contrib site which can be used as the mechanism for this type of scheme.

Another option is to use a hardware dongle. I have successfully used the USB dongle from <http://www.keylok.com/>, which is cheap and simple. You will have to write a DLM to access the dongle from within IDL, however, which means this solution is not platform independent.

Good luck!

On Dec 15, 11:59 am, "M. Katz" <MKatz...@yahoo.com> wrote:

> I'm contemplating creating commercial software that will be licensed
> for use on specific machines. In an effort not to re-invent the wheel,
> can anyone provide a good recommendation for how to implement such a
> system.
>
> I'd like my program to be able to check either a MAC address or
> something similar that's machine-specific. I want to avoid having a
> system where the program needs to 'phone home' on every load to check
> on a license validity using the internet.
>
> Of course, I'd like to be able to do this in a way that's cross-
> platform, but I'd gladly settle for writing different methods for
> different platforms.
>
> If I'm distributing code that will execute on the IDL VM, perhaps
> there's a way to specify a given machine's installation in a non-
> transferrable way?
>
> Thanks!
> M. Katz
