
Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 20:20:34 GMT

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

nata writes:

- > Anybody knows how to put a license in a IDL project ? I want to write
- > a license for my project (only available for X days). Is it possible?

IF Systime(/JULIAN) GT Julday(4, 25, 2008) THEN RETURN

Cheers,

David

P.S. It's a poor man's license, but it works OK. :-)

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 20:42:53 GMT

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

nata wrote:

- > Hi gurus,
- >
- > Anybody knows how to put a license in a IDL project ? I want to write
- > a license for my project (only available for X days). Is it possible?
- >
- > Thanks

You could create a license file with a large amount of random numbers and a few numbers at known position that hold the starting date of the license. Then, have your main program read this file, extract the date, and compare with today's date. The good point is that you could automate the creation of this file in any language, including PHP, so no need to modify your code each time you want to give your program to someone!

example:

```
license = fix(randomu(100,10000)*10) ;0 to 9
```

```
license[51] = 2
```

```
license[489] = 3 ;day = 23
```

```
license[9851] = 0
```

```
license[3246] = 4 ;month = 04  
license[921] = 2  
license[8001] = 0  
license[5675] = 0  
license[4854] = 8 ;year = 2008
```

Now in your program, read only the specified indexes and voila! ... make sure that no ones finds the indexes you use!!!

Jean

Subject: Re: project license
Posted by [natha](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 20:46:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I thought about this solution...
Is not a good idea to associate the license with the systime.

If one user wants to crack the license only needs to change the clock of his computer.

Moreover, You can't distribute free licenses with that.

Thanks

Subject: Re: project license
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 20:54:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

nata writes:

- > I thought about this solution...
- > Is not a good idea to associate the license with the systime.
- >
- > If one user wants to crack the license only needs to change the clock
- > of his computer.
- >
- > Moreover, You can't distribute free licenses with that.

Oh, well, if you want to be official, you probably have to spend the big bucks. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: project license
Posted by [Bob\[3\]](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 21:09:12 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Apr 23, 4:46 pm, nata <bernat.puigdomen...@gmail.com> wrote:
> I thought about this solution...
> Is not a good idea to associate the license with the systime.
>
> If one user wants to crack the license only needs to change the clock
> of his computer.

If you want the project "only available for X days" you're going to have to deal with systime and such limitations.

If you want to limit it to a certain number of uses/sessions then you could encrypt a counter (similar to Jean's date suggestion) in a hidden file and check against that I suppose.

Bob.

Subject: Re: project license
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 21:25:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

> If one user wants to crack the license only needs to change the clock
> of his computer.

to complete my previous post, you can have your program to write the date of the last time the software was used. If the current date is before the last date, or before the start date, then void the license.

Jean

Subject: Re: project license
Posted by [natha](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 21:29:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Thanks a lot people, :)

Bernat

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 21:34:54 GMT

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

"nata" <bernat.puigdomenech@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:ca37bb97-c1c9-4145-a4cc-37510f641171@m73g2000hsh.google groups.com...

> I thought about this solution...

> Is not a good idea to associate the license with the systime.

>

> If one user wants to crack the license only needs to change the clock

> of his computer.

You could record the systime everytime the program runs and
store it some secret place, and if it ever 'jumps backwards' then
invalidate the license.

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [natha](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 21:54:38 GMT

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

On Apr 23, 5:25 pm, Jean H <jghas...@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca>
wrote:

>> If one user wants to crack the license only needs to change the clock

>> of his computer.

>

> to complete my previous post, you can have your program to write the

> date of the last time the software was used. If the current date is

> before the last date, or before the start date, then void the license.

>

> Jean

If I save the date or any other parameter in a sav file this could be
cracked.

Using a large amount of random numbers and a few numbers at known
position that hold the starting date of the
license is a good idea. I think I'll use that !

Similarly I can store the date of the last time the software was used.
Also I could use another kind of "cryptgraphy" but I think this is
more difficult.

Thanks

Bernat

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 21:56:32 GMT

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

nata writes:

- > Similarly I can store the date of the last time the software was used.
- > Also I could use another kind of "cryptgraphy" but I think this is
- > more difficult.

The main thing is to make sure the software is **worth** stealing. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [b_gom](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2008 22:57:09 GMT

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

On Apr 23, 1:57 pm, nata <bernat.puigdomen...@gmail.com> wrote:

- > Hi gurus,
- >
- > Anybody knows how to put a license in a IDL project ? I want to write
- > a license for my project (only available for X days). Is it possible?
- >
- > Thanks

I agree with David; the amount of work you put into the licensing should be proportional to the risk that someone is going to steal the program.

I've never really liked date-based licenses, but I've tried the following approaches for this type of thing, each with their own set of disadvantages:

-using a hardware ID, such as a MAC address or hard drive serial

number, and requesting permission to execute over the web. This can be circumvented but at least you will be able to tell if it has by the web server logs.

- using an encrypted key to allow execution and/or store encrypted information about the number of days left. (See the TEA package in the ITT user contrib site)

- using a hardware dongle to allow execution and provide time limits.

The hardware dongle requires a DLM to implement, but makes it simple to manage licenses. The cost of the dongles can be in the \$20 range, so this assumes your software is worth at least this much.

If you have actually developed a 'killer app', then you might want to talk to ITT. They may have options you can use to license runtime versions of the code.

Good Luck..

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Thu, 24 Apr 2008 13:35:20 GMT

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

On Apr 23, 4:56 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> nata writes:

>> Similarly I can store the date of the last time the software was used.

>> Also I could use another kind of "cryptgraphy" but I think this is

>> more difficult.

>

> The main thing is to make sure the software is *worth* stealing. :-)

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

> --

> David Fanning, Ph.D.

> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

This immediately makes me ask the more philosophical question: "Is ANY software worth stealing?" But then, I've never understood the whole "copyright" thing...

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 24 Apr 2008 13:41:57 GMT

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

Vince Hradil writes:

- > This immediately makes me ask the more philosophical question: "Is ANY
- > software worth stealing?" But then, I've never understood the whole
- > "copyright" thing...

Try writing a book. You will understand it a *lot* better!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 24 Apr 2008 13:47:37 GMT

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

David Fanning writes:

- > Try writing a book. You will understand it a *lot* better!

Rather, try smiling while someone pulls out their dog-eared photocopy of YOUR book and all you can think about is the year you spent without income while your marriage nearly disintegrated. It's harder than you think.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 24 Apr 2008 16:18:01 GMT

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

David Fanning writes:

- > Rather, try smiling while someone pulls out their dog-eared
- > photocopy of YOUR book and all you can think about is the
- > year you spent without income while your marriage nearly
- > disintegrated. It's harder than you think.

What!? No comments?

I'll have to check the revenues from the store. Money
from shamed IDL users must be pouring in today. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: project license

Posted by [b_gom](#) on Thu, 24 Apr 2008 17:24:58 GMT

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

We had a legally purchased copy of your book in the lab, but someone
walked off with it..

Brad

On Apr 24, 10:18 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > David Fanning writes:
- >> Rather, try smiling while someone pulls out their dog-eared
- >> photocopy of YOUR book and all you can think about is the
- >> year you spent without income while your marriage nearly
- >> disintegrated. It's harder than you think.
- >
- > What!? No comments?
- >
- > I'll have to check the revenues from the store. Money
- > from shamed IDL users must be pouring in today. :-)
- >
- > Cheers,
- >
- > David
- > --
- > David Fanning, Ph.D.

- > Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
 - > Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
 - > Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
-