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Subject: IDL PDF Book No Longer Available  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2008 14:13:21 GMT  
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Folks,

Odd that we were talking about stealing books yesterday.

This morning I learned that a French bookseller has purchased a single copy of my PDF book and is selling it on their web site (for about three times my price).

I am afraid I have had to discontinue selling the PDF version of the book until I figure out what to do about this. Selling an electronic copy of the book was an experiment that involved a great deal of financial exposure on my part. I was worried something like this might happen. (Although, frankly, I didn't expect it from a bookseller. Blame it on naivety, I guess.)

Stealing people's intellectual property turns out to have bad karma for everyone.

Cheers,

David

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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.")

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Subject: Re: IDL PDF Book No Longer Available  
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 08:31:51 GMT  
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On Apr 25, 2:13 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Odd that we were talking about stealing books yesterday.  
>  
> This morning I learned that a French bookseller has  
> purchased a single copy of my PDF book and is selling it  
> on their web site (for about three times my price).

Yikes!

- > I am afraid I have had to discontinue selling the PDF
- > version of the book until I figure out what to do about
- > this.

Encrypt each copy you sell with a unique password, and sell directly though your website. Yes, this will probably require more work than it is worth. (pdftk is capable of encrypting the pdf file server side).

As a service, you could give people who have bought a paper copy access to the electronic version by giving away the pdf (encrypted with a specific word from a specific page of the paper copy). The book "Python Scripting for Computational Science" by Hans Petter Langtangen uses a similar method. Searching in the electronic copy is generally quicker than in the paper copy, although your index is pretty good.

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This is very low indeed. Which reseller should I avoid in the future?

Maarten

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