
Subject: \$'s for code

Posted by [mirko_vukovic](#) on Fri, 29 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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I seemingly started a whole discussion on living of programming, and promptly missed the rest of it.

So, what is a sensible way of sharing your programs with the rest of the world?

I get really pissed off when some nice piece of sw that was free for ages and all of a sudden is proprietary and costs hundreds or thousands (in case of diffpack) of dollars.

But look at Gnu-emacs. Free, developped by hundreds of users and an absolutely incredible tool for editing any kind of file. I suspect Xemacs will be even more awsome.

Now, I've read bits of the GNU general public license, and agree with most of it. The way I would go about the whole issue is that I can distribute my software free of charge and allow others to freeley use it and/or modify it. If however my software (or a derivation of it that still depends a great deal on the original version) is used a part of a *commercial* package, then I should be compensated.

For example, the way I see the polar plotting routine now, it sucks. If I were to write my own, and distribute it, everything is fine. But now, if RSI picks it up and ships it as part of the IDL distribution, I would want some change.

The issue is completely different if someone approaches me and asks me to develop a piece of IDL code for their use. In that case, first put some money on the table:-)

mirko

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