

Re: Intellectual Property Protection

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The basic problem with the task you're faced with is that it's impossible.

Certainly, looking for keystrokes and stuff is a silly and doomed approach. If nothing else, I can just pop up the character map (or any other onscreen keyboard) and type whatever I want. Or just rename the file, or whatever. There are a million ways to defeat something like that.

If you want to do something a tiny bit secure, about the only way is to encrypt the file you're protecting, and only allow opening/decrypting it through some secure interface which you provide. Even that fails, but at least it's a lot harder to break.

Geoff wrote:

The company I work for, a publishing company, is concerned about unauthorized copying of its intellectual property when distributed by mass-media like CDROM.

I have been tasked with finding a means of recognizing when one of our copyrighted works is being copied.

It seems to me that what I should do is hook the keyboard, and buffer what is being typed, and compare it to a database of copyrighted works.

When we detect that someone is copying our work, we disable the keyboard -- except for BACKSPACE. And DELETE. And LEFT-ARROW.

In order to prevent people from making illegal printouts of our copyrighted works, it seems to me what I should do is hook the CreateDC() function, and forward all requests to the original driver,

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except `DrvTextOut()`. When what is being printed matches something in our database, we disable the printer.

If we can also detect that the content is being displayed on two monitors at the same time on dual-monitor systems, that would be great. If the license lookup indicates that this is not allowed, then we can blank one of the the screens.

Is it possible to blank just the secondary monitor? It does not matter which, really. Blanking one makes the use compliant with the license.

In order to prevent people from making illegal copies, an upper-filter on top of all the drive-stacks would be in order. All `WRITE` IRPs are scanned and compared to the database, and if we detect that someone is copying our work, we disable the disk drive.

Actually, that is probably going a little too far.

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