To: Jule L. Sigall
    Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Ned M. Andre

Comment:
I am a programmer. It is common for programmers to use code provided by other either
as a temporary patch allowing you to move on in the project with the intention of
coming back to re-write the neccessary code, or as a permanent part of the
application. Many of these code snippets provided by others are copywrited, with a
license similar to this: 'this code is copywrited. You may use this freely for
non-commercial works, but need to purchase a license for commercial projects'.

Often, when a project is done, if it deamed commercially viable we will return to
the copywrite holders site to try and obtain a license. Many of these copywrite
holders are one man companies, who may have folded or moved on, their web sites
where the product/code was originally distributed gone. No forwarding information is
provided. There domain is expired, so no whois lookup to find the authors
information is available. You now have a problem obvious in nature: you have
copyrighted code embedded in your product, released under a license requiring
purchase of a commercial license for use, yet no way to aquire such a license.

You either release your product with the code assuming the copyright holder does not
care, will not know, and nothing will happen, or you do an expensive re-write to
remove the offending code with new code.