

Re: Intel also needs convincing on firmware licensing.

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2004-10/9161.html>

From: Kalin KOZHUHAROV (kalin_at_thinrope.net)

Date: 10/28/04

To: linux-kernel@vger.kernel.org

Date: Fri, 29 Oct 2004 00:41:31 +0900

Just one statement (below)...

Gene Heskett wrote:

> *On Wednesday 27 October 2004 22:25, Han Boetes wrote:*

>

>> *Hi,*

>>

>> *The people from the OpenBSD project are currently lobbying to get*

>> *the firmware for Intel wireless chipsets under a license suitable*

>> *for Open Source.*

>>

>> *Since this will not only benefit BSD but also the Linux Project (and*

>> *even Intel) I would like to mention the URL here for people who want*

>> *to help writing to Intel.*

>>

>> <http://undeadly.org/cgi?action=article&sid=20041027193425>

>>

>

> *Please be aware that for the so-called "software radios"*

> *chips/chipsets, the FCC, and other similar regulating bodies in other*

> *countries has made access to the data quite restrictive in an attempt*

> *to keep the less ruly among us from putting them on frequencies they*

> *aren't authorized to use, or to set the power levels above whats*

> *allowed. These restrictions can vary from governing body to*

> *governing body so the software is generally supplied according to*

> *where the chipset is being shipped. The potential for mischief, and*

> *legal/monetary reprecussions is sufficiently great that I have*

> *serious doubts that Intel will budge from their current position*

> *unless we can prove, beyond any doubt, that the regulatory*

> *limitations imposed will not be violated.*

>

> *Since open source, where anyone who can read the code can see exactly*

> *what the limits are, and 'adjust to suit', virtually guarantees*

> *miss-use, sooner if not later, for no other reason than its human*

> *nature to experiment, Intel/moto/etc therefore has very good reasons*

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Linux-Kernel: Re: Intel also needs convincing on firmware licensing.

> *to treat its chip<->software interface as highly secret &
> proprietary.*

To own a gun (in USA at least) is legal and easy.

To use it is your choice.

It may be illegal at times, but you still can (legally) have one.

> *Thats not saying that they may at some point furnish a 'filter' that
> presents the rest of the world with a usable API to control it, but
> the filter will see to it that attempted illegal settings are
> ignored. The only way I can see that actually working is to actually
> put that filter inside the chip, customized for the locale its being
> shipped to. The radio control portion of the chip itself wouldn't
> even be bonded out to external world pins or bga contacts, just the
> port of the filter that the outside world talks to.*

>

> *I'd rather doubt they want to make 20 to 40 different filtered
> versions of the same chipset just to satisfy TPTB in some 3rd world
> country thats less than 1% of the total sales. Even the relatively
> dense market where Han lives is probably less than 5% of the total
> for a popular chipset.*

>

> *I'm a broadcast engineer who has been dealing at times with the FCC
> for over 40 years, so you could say I'm biased. But thats not real
> bias, its just from being fairly familiar with the regulatory
> territory.*

>

> *I'd like to see an open source solution to this problem myself, but
> just because its open source we are asking for, with the attendant
> liabilities that implies, I would not hold my breath till it happens.*

>

> *If you do, you'll probably be talking to the rest of the world through
> a Ouija board.*

>

Just stirring the soup you see,

Kalin.

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