

Re: pay for linux conexant modem drivers???

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux.suse/2003-09/1104.html>

From: Jeff Breitner (usenet_at_rudn.com)

Date: 09/14/03

Date: Sun, 14 Sep 2003 14:31:13 -0400

cycomiko wrote:

> -----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
> Hash: SHA1
>
> *i recently got a mail from the linuxant (winmodem conexant drivers
> for linux) and here is an exerpt:*
>
> *"Because the scope of the project has grown beyond the capacity of a
> single volunteer and legal issues prevent us from using a classic
> open-source development model, the modem drivers are now available in
> two editions:*

Well there you go, that explains why they need to charge for the product. They had to shell out money in order to write the drivers you want. Do you think they should just pay their money so you can use someone else's crummy Windows hardware?

> *who in their right mind i this day and age d/l a driver that only
> supports 14.4 kbps???? i think most linux users who have winmodems
> like me will either go buy a new external modem, get broadband (if
> they can) or move off linux all together. or of course maybe some
> sort of crack or serial number will surface will surface....
> then how exactly will these people be making their money?
>*

You're probably correct. I don't see them doing this to make money, I see them doing this in order to cover the costs of them making a seriously needed contribution to the Linux movement. Let's face it, there's a lot of Conexant softmodems out there and this is a helpful addition. but I'm sure Conexant bent them over and told them that they couldn't distribute this without paying royalties or licensing. I can see where this would be a nice alternative route to follow as opposed to being SUED.

> *and who ever thought of PAYING for a DRIVER??? i bought their product
> right?? why should the windows driver be free and i should pay for a
> full functioning linux one???*
>

>

You pay for a driver whether it's bundled into the product costs or you purchase the driver separately. And if you don't pay, that doesn't mean someone else hasn't paid for you. This stuff costs money, and even though Linux is free, someone has had to feed those programmers. I don't see pizza places tossing pizzas out onto the sidewalk under the 'GPL'.

Be glad there's a driver available. \$14 isn't a bad deal, considering a good 56k external modem is \$75, and who'd wanna cart that around in a laptop?