

The Link Newsletter

CAD-Cops for CATIA

Today all serious design and prototyping work is done with various kinds of CAD software, using advanced computer simulation. Valuable drawings and CAD designs have lacked copy-protection, since special CAD formats are being used.

Based on our long work with Cops Crypto data protection, Link has now finished a dedicated product for this area, CAD-Cops. It is possible to keep data objects safely encrypted. This can be for in-house needs or for instance in situations where a design is sent to a third party or to a manufacturing plant.

Specific CAD-Cops versions will appear as needed for the most-used CAD programs and data formats. Due to customer requests, our first system supports CATIA from Dassault Systems. CATIA is distributed by IBM and it is the World's leading solution for Product Design and Innovation. It is used by both Boeing and Airbus in aerospace and also by all the major car manufacturers.

The first CAD-Cops client is a Japanese subcontractor to the car industry with 20,000 employees. Sales and assistance with project planning have been handled by our efficient Japanese distributor, Mr. Shigeji Kobayashi from [Suncarla Corp.](#) in Tokyo.



Catia software used in a car design

Adobe AIR and RIA-applications

Adobe AIR is becoming a popular tool for packaging and installing applications. It facilitates cross-platform portability and gives developers the advantage of platform-independent source code.

For each platform an AIR runtime needs to be installed once, then all AIR application can run.



Old-timers will remember P-code (pseudo-code) that reached some popularity in the 70's, before it's lack of efficiency brought target-specific coding back again. A later p-code implementation is Java, where a platform-specific virtual machine on-the-fly translates the p-code, called Java bytecode.

As AIR comes with an integrated install-builder that for each platform generates the main application and packages all files in an installation archive, any modification to this is a challenge. After some development, Link can now offer an easily-implemented technique for protecting AIR applications. This new technique was utilized by [Macmillan Publishing Solutions](#) for their New Inside Out Digital product.

Adobe AIR can also be used to make a RIA (Rich Internet Application). Also here Cops Crypto combined with UNI-Cops can be used to provide safe locking without the need for a physical media.

Junior partner to become MBA

Rico Elm, after 9 years with the company, has been accepted for an MBA education at Denmark's Technical University, DTU. The MBA course - more specifically MMT (Master in Management of Technology) - lasts for two years and will include study trips to interesting companies in other parts of the world.

This education is designed for working CTOs, education has been assigned to pairs of Fridays/Saturdays every other week, with emphasis placed on home-reading. The costs associated are

carried by Link Data Security to ensure fresh resources in our company's management crew.



Windows 7

Windows 7 is getting released in October this year. All our protections made the last year work well under this new operating system, both 32-bit and 64-bit.

For older protections the compatibility setting must be set to Vista SP2. This is easily set for a single application by right-clicking and setting properties.

We are working with Microsoft on the 64-bit edition compatibility setting to fix a problem in their latest version.

Code-based expiry

The Marstal Navigation School specializes in maritime education. Recently, Marstal expressed an interest in protecting their tanker vetting courses.

On ships today there may be an online connection, but often it is only available

special places. We have therefore added support in our CD and DVD protections for expiry via the existing CD/DVD-code. The code format has been expanded to 20 chars, with the desired expiry date embedded in the code.

You can send a customer a protected product with a CD/DVD-code and then later give him another code that extends his use.

Macmillan Aviation Eltons award

The 2009 British Council Innovation Award, the Eltons, was given to the Aviation product.

In March 2008 the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) introduced legislation requiring all pilots and air traffic controllers working in international airspace to have a standard level of English.

Designed to the ICAO descriptors, Aviation English by Macmillan © 2008 presents language, vocabulary and communication skills around 12 non-routine aviation situations. It coaches students to react fluently, clearly, and, most importantly, intelligibly.



This is what Macmillan's Andy Roberts said at the prize ceremony:

» A few years ago the International Civil Aviation Organization realized that a contributing factor in a number of incidents and accidents was a lack of basic English, "plane English". So they decided that they were gonna introduce legislation to assess pilots and aircraft controllers ability to fly planes. «

There was a famous accident in China in 1993 involving a pilot of a new Western-built airliner carrying about 20 passengers coming into a difficult airfield, surrounded by mountains. He banked too wide and was heading (through cloud) straight for high ground. The plane had an automatic warning system and the alarm started beeping. The pilot didn't know what it meant; then an automated voice said, "Pull up! Pull up!". After the crash, they recovered the black box which had the pilot saying to his co-pilot (in Chinese), "What does 'pull up' mean?" As a note, the official term used in control tower talk is climb.

We are proud to have protected this and many other outstanding Macmillan products with CD-Cops.

New Products from OUP

[Oxford University Press](#), best-known for its venerable English Dictionary, has expanded into other fields. Their popular iPack learning series hit the market in 2008/2009, and all 8 titles were protected by Cop's Crypto and CD-Cops.

Besides this, Oxford has developed an interesting econometrics program - due for release shortly. For those of you who wonder what econometrics is, here's a definition:

Econometrics is concerned with the tasks of developing and applying quantitative or statistical methods to the study and elucidation of economic principles. Econometrics combines economic theory with statistics to analyze and test economic relationships. Theoretical econometrics considers questions about the statistical properties of estimators and tests, while applied econometrics is concerned with the application of econometric methods to assess economic theories.

Sounds extremely relevant in the light of current financial affairs, doesn't it? The product utilizes our UNI-Cops/ WebCops protection and is available both as single-user and network version.

Antivirus

The better known antivirus systems are responsive and in general recognize our protection files to avoid a false alarm.

Encrypted files can by mistake trigger an alarm. Fortunately all systems maintain a web-distributed whitelist, so reporting a problem to them solves it.

It is important to sign all executable files (Authenticode signing) to minimize the chance for a "false positive".

We recommend that you test carefully on many systems before distribution and monitor support after distribution. The whitelisting solution works also for already made CDs and DVDs.

WebCops 3.0 (UNI-Cops)

Link's experience with online protections goes back to 1997 when DialCops was introduced. This product, able to protect both DOS and Windows applications is still being used today.



Then in 2001, DialCops was basically phased out and our new baby, WebCops was released. This was a much-improved version with a user-friendly graphical interface and an online database for handling customer installations and expiry.

Like an old soldier, WebCops hangs on, but the improved UNI-Cops version - first mentioned in our 2006 Newsletter and now celebrating its 3rd anniversary - has taken over.

Link still has a few customers who are satisfied and continue using the original WebCops, but most customers have now switched to the better and more versatile UNI-Cops/WebCops.