

Re: Getting Fed Up With MapSource Unlock

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- *From:* Stephen Brown <geocacher@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 14 Apr 2006 19:30:39 -0500
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On Thu, 13 Apr 2006 17:09:35 -0700, kashe vigorously opined:

On Thu, 13 Apr 2006 14:58:07 -0700, Dale DePriest
<Dale@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

And how do you prevent the user you sold the unit to from continuing to use the maps? He has an unlocked GPS with maps on it possibly. For Garmin to do this they would have to have a way to disable the locks on the original unit and ensure that there are no maps left installed on the original unit(s).

It's trivial — a Simple Matter of Programming (tm). I've used software on a PC which is locked to a license, but can be transferred among machines. At installation time, you are given what is called a request key. You transmit the request key and license number to the vendor. In return, you get a response key, which is entered into the software. If you want to move the software to another machine, you ask it for a revoke key, which disables the software on that machine. You send the revoke key to the vendor, who records the license available for reinstallation.

When you install on a new machine, a new request key is generated by the installer. Send it to the vendor and receive a new response key to enter to activate the software on the new machine.

It's a very fast turnaround process, done by fax, email or on the phone.

For maximum availability, it can be done in a single short call. You install the software on the new machine, call the vendor, generate the revoke key on the old machine, read it to the customer rep and read him the request key generated on the new machine. He enters the revoke key to free up the license, then enters the new request key and reads you back the new response key, still associated

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with the same license. You're back in business in no time at all.

This take care of the legitimate needs of both vendor and customer, as only a small cost to convenience. It would also allow for the situation where a user could choose to sell the old unit either with the unlock codes for the buyer to use or with the codes revoked so the buyer could make his own arrangement with Garmin while the seller continued to make use of his original unlock codes on a new unit.

If you can send an unlocked unit to Garmin for repair and they elect to replace it with a unit with a different serial, but still allow you to make use of your purchased, unlocked maps, this would show that all the serial-number/unlock-code shuffling is technically feasible and it is solely a matter of policy/contract between Garmin and NAVTEQ.

I like this response. I think it is one of the best I've seen so far.

Thanks for the reply, kashe. And, if you'll pardon the pun, "keep kashe-in". ;)

Warm regards,
Stephen

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