

Re: Getting Fed Up With MapSource Unlock

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- *From:* kashe@xxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Sat, 15 Apr 2006 00:20:40 -0700
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On 14 Apr 2006 18:44:28 -0700, "peter" <prathman@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Stephen Brown wrote:

On Thu, 13 Apr 2006 17:09:35 -0700, kashe vigorously opined:

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.

I'd think it would best be handled on the vendor's website to provide immediate interaction while still being fully automated. Phone/email could be provided as backup for customers who don't have convenient web access.

Re: Getting Fed Up With MapSource Unlock

Agreed. I was just describing the process as I've seen it implemented.

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.

It would be an improvement in some circumstances and may or may not be acceptable to NavTeq from a security standpoint. But I'd note that it would be of no benefit to customers in your situation who sell their old receivers and only afterwards check on the rules regarding reuse of the software on a new purchase.

Well, this pretty well applies to nearly any product transfer. I'm reminded of a class I once took at IBM where the instructor said, "In general, when you break the rules, the results are unpredictable."

Nor would it be of any use to two other groups mentioned before in the thread: those who either lose their receiver or have it stolen.

Requiring certification, as by a police report, might help, but you're then going on the basis of trust.

Regarding the software I referred to earlier, the stuff went for a few thousand a copy. We had a good relationship with the vendor, so were able to work things out as necessary.

Obviously the chain of keys would get broken if a hard drive crashed, when you had no opportunity to request a revoke key, etc. We didn't have any problems with getting a replacement key in those circumstances.