

Re: Do any GPS units let you upload your own maps?

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- *From:* nemo <gnuarm@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 17 Apr 2007 08:57:51 -0700
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On Apr 17, 12:22 pm, Dan Anderson <danderson2...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jack Yeazel wrote:

Well put, Jack... Look what's coming out:
<http://abovethetimber.com/GPSmaps.htm>

-I would say, it must not very difficult (that's easy for me to say!)... These maps are created from 10m DEM data to come up with the contour lines... Roger says, however, he has two computers running 24 hours a day to create the maps... (I suggested he rent a Cray, but it couldn't afford it)...

I wouldn't call it technically difficult. The problem is that the format is proprietary. In the FAQ, he says he tried to get a license and the answer was no. He went ahead anyway. So, in the future, he might find himself on the wrong end of a lawsuit.

I assume he copyrights his own work (his web page has a copyright) but chooses not to respect another company's intellectual rights.

Are you saying that simply creating your own data in the format to load into a Garmin product is violating a copyright? I don't think a "format" can be copyrighted. It can be patented like they do with busses or other interfaces in computers. You can copyright a text based command set, but I don't think that can extend to the binary or the actual stream. Certainly I am not sure of this conclusion, but I know Intel copyrighted the assembly language commands for their initial CPUs, but they couldn't stop Zilog from using the same binary patterns for the same instruction functionality. Wouldn't trying to stop someone from using an upload protocol or a data format be

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analogous?

Am I missing something here?

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