



Protection and Licensing Framework for Java

*Lock It How You Would Like It
—Or how to keep freeloaders
from your Java applications.*

by Alexander Krivov

Contrary to what some would assert, software piracy is not a victimless crime. Like shoplifters in a retail store, those who steal software code are making off with a real and measurable asset—in this case, the seller's intellectual property. What's more, although large brand-name vendors present more visible and appealing targets for hackers, small software providers are just as likely to fall victim to this serious crime.

Statistics show that piracy impacts every kind of software product, from simple shareware applications to extensive enterprise suites. If your software does more than just convert Celsius to Fahrenheit, you can bet that someone will attempt to break it's security scheme.

According to the Business Software Alliance (BSA), a global non-profit organization representing the software industry, software theft costs developers more than \$29 billion (USD) a year in lost revenue worldwide. Over \$6 billion is lost each year in the United States alone; in some Asian and European markets, over 70% of all software in use is either pirated or otherwise used illegally.

Piracy, without question, is a problem that affects every software company. As Internet-based delivery increasingly replaces pre-installation as the distribution method of choice for most types of software and software companies, piracy prevention has surfaced as a growing challenge—one that requires a solid solution.

Protection!™ to the rescue

Protection!™ Licensing Framework for Java is a 100% Java, comprehensive automated licensing framework allowing developers to build highly customized protection and licensing solutions into their applications. Protection!™ offers a number of advanced protection capabilities and delivers powerful and feature-rich licensing solutions to Java developers. One of the greatest strengths of Protection!™ is its ability to be embedded into custom applications or components to prohibit their unlicensed use, while enabling developers to securely distribute their applications to the end-users. Console, desktop or server-side Web or EJB applications can be easily licensed with the help of Protection!™ providing a solid foundation for licensing software solutions of any size and complexity.

It is Everything you need...

Protection! is easily embedded into any application or delivery mechanism, from CD-based software to web-delivered products. Protection! provides a rich set of features that allow developers to match the business needs of their customers, protect their own intellectual property, and deploy licenses through Web services and/or RMI. Key Protection! features include:

- **Protection! Control Center**—an application designed to facilitate product maintenance, ability to generate new or read existing licenses, work with Serial Numbers, generate ready-to-build Java code snippets, send licenses by e-mail; and much more...
- **Variety of Licensing Models** such as “named-user” licensing that locks the license to particular computer, “floating” licensing model allowing multiple concurrent users within the same license, and “grace period” support wherein publishers of subscription-based software can define a specified number of days past a payment deadline before service stops;
- **License Activation Support**, an optional requirement for activating the license through user registration. By requiring details during the registration/activation process, the developer or publisher can track actual deployments of the application—especially valuable for trial applications with bundled evaluation licenses;

- **Powerful Back-End and Web Services Development**, offering a default implementation as a foundation for easily building custom back-ends that are exported through RMI or Web services. It is possible to develop custom back-ends by extending default implementation or by writing plug-ins. Protection! provides the ability to specify visually all the attributes of the default implementation as well as the ability to create custom archives for Web services applications without the need to understand Web services development;
- **Multiple Feature Configurations** that are linked to the specific type of license and state granted to the user. This feature enables the creation of multi-level software products (e.g., Basic, Standard, or Scientific), each with its own rules (e.g., Commercial, Evaluation, Expired Commercial, Expired Evaluation, Invalid License, etc.)
- **Protection against Products Code Patching**—Protection!'s tempering subsystem allows checking and validation that designated key application files/classes/resources are not changed.
- **Assistants**—ready-to-use Licensing and Activation Assistant Wizards—invoked from within the custom applications to aid the users in the process of obtaining, upgrading and activating their licenses
- **Powerful Resolver mechanism** that can be used to intercept and fix any issue that occurs during license reading and/or validation.

Protection! is also scalable...

Even though, right out-of-the-box Protection! provides developers with comprehensive set of tools and with variety of licensing models—if you need to grow—Protection! will be right-by-your-side. There are several Protection! editions and optional packages to best fit of the customer's abilities and requirements. Small companies and start-ups can choose Protection! Standard as an inexpensive solution to start protecting and licensing their applications and to decrease greatly time to market. Protection! Professional is right for companies those require building fully automated solutions that allow various licensing models, usage tracking, integrations with resellers and online stores etc. And certainly it's easy to upgrade from one edition to another.

... and it is Royalty Free!

Protection! Licensing Framework for Java is royalty free and priced per developer. You can deploy as many protected applications to as many of your customers as you want. There's no hidden extra cost, no per seat costs and no additional cost incurred for distributing your protected application.

Conclusion

Protection!™ is a highly flexible product that not only makes the licensing process easier but also protects the developer's intellectual property with a degree of customization never before available. Protection!™ can be used with any kind of application, through any deployment mechanism, enabling the developer to meet securely and reliably the business requirements of both the buyer and the seller.

Protection! Licensing Framework for Java solves complex licensing challenges. Developers using Protection! are able to build and distribute their applications with the peace of mind that the unauthorized use of their applications is minimized, thereby translating to the recovery of potentially lost revenues.



ALEXANDER KRIVOV is CEO of jProductivity, a leading developer and marketer of productivity tools for software developers. jProductivity offers Protection!—a sophisticated licensing framework for custom Java applications; Productivity!—a set of tools to greatly simplify routine coding tasks within JBuilder; and Components!—powerful components for JFC/Swing.