

Abstract

Software is typically protected by copyright as a program. This is true also for software product lines. However, these consist of many individually protected modules, some custom code probably protected too, and configuration files. Whether the latter are protected as programs, as text, or not at all is interesting, as it determines what users are allowed to do with them, like modifying or reverse engineering. Additionally it is discussed whether the product line as such, independent from the elements it consists of, is or can be protected. A software product line for call center applications is presented as a case study, which is then used as an example for discussing the legal protection.