

## **SOFTWARE - COPYRIGHT PROTECTION IN UK**

In a recent case in the High Court the extent to which computer software can be protected has been clarified.

This judgement extends protection towards the "look and feel" and gives consideration to the copying of individual elements which form a substantial part of the original program.

The High Court decision in John Richardson Computers Ltd v Flanders and Chemtec Ltd concerned the copying of software for use in pharmacies.

The two pieces of software were reviewed by running them to identify similarities, the Court identifying 17 similar elements of the software.

Of these, it was concluded that nine of the elements were the result of copying.

### **THE DECISION**

The decision was given that copyright infringement had occurred with respect to three of these specific elements of the program.

A full decision has not yet been published, but if you would like further information when this is available, please contact Chris Goodman.

The information in this Newsletter was correct at the date of release. More up to date information is available by contacting Eric Potter Clarkson. All comments contained here are of a general nature and full professional advice should be sought on any specific problem.  
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