



SPACE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CENTER
University of Wisconsin-Madison

31 March 2008

Dear Tom

This letter contains some clarifications to the original letter sent to you by myself in May 2001 regarding the distribution of McIDAS-X through Unidata. Below we seek to better identify who may legally download the McIDAS-X software through the Unidata web site. We would be agreeable to review with you any requests that are questionable; that would allow you to have no further responsibility for decision-making. An update on SSEC policy follows.

We at SSEC have discussed the issue of expanding the Unidata user base to include members of the international university community and its implication on SSEC. One aspect of this expansion is distributing McIDAS -X and -XCD software to these users. We understand that you wish to include the entire McIDAS release in order to streamline your software packaging.

Regarding McIDAS-X, we consider permissible users of the “international university community” to be those who are using McIDAS-X for academic classroom instruction or academic research by students related to obtaining a degree. Research institutes and government agencies that use McIDAS-X for meteorological research or operations must purchase a license from SSEC for the non-academic use. Given this clarification, and if Unidata users remain within the licensing terms that include no re-distribution of any portion of the software, we are agreeable to providing this software to the international university Unidata user community.

Regarding McIDAS -XCD, we have some concerns, as our McIDAS Users’ Group (MUG) revenue depends on financial support from -XCD subscribers. However, in reviewing our MUG membership, we see little current conflict with international Unidata members. Thus, we also agree that Unidata can include the McIDAS-XCD software as part of the package.

In summary, SSEC agrees that Unidata can provide the entire McIDAS software package in the Unidata software suite for Unidata users. We do reserve the right to rescind this offer in the future if we find it compromises SSEC activities.

Regards,

Tom Achtor
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