

3D Graphics under GNU/Linux besieged by MS patents

<http://swpat.ffii.org/pikta/xrani/opengl/index.en.html>

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Former SGI patents have changed owners, making 3D graphic processing under GNU/Linux dependent on the mercy of Microsoft. Microsoft's terms are not yet quite clear, but they appear at least to be forcing a change of license terms away from the GNU GPL.

Contents

- **OpenGL and MS Patents¹**

The Register publishes several letters from open source project leaders who warn that Microsoft has now weapons in its hands which could make it impossible to develop viable free 3D graphics software and that Microsoft seems to be moving to use these weapons.

*<http://www.ffii.org/~phm>

¹<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/35/26156.html>

- **OpenGL: ARB meeting minutes 2002-06-18²**

Microsoft started discussions about its OpenGL-related at this meeting.

- **Microsoft buys a number of 3D patents from SGI³**

Report by TheRegister

- **mailing list thread on MS vs OpenGL⁴**

²http://www.opengl.org/developers/about/arb/notes/meeting_note_2002-06-18.html

³<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/54/23708.html>

⁴<http://aful.org/wws/arc/patents/2002-07/msg00022.html>