

## Re: Licence and software protection

**Source:**

<http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.thirdpartytools.general/2005-03/0846.html>

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**From:** Owen .K (noemail\_at\_hotmail.com)

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Protection using Ring 0 are very unstable, I tried Themida (ex XtremeProtector) on many computers with different OS (Win95, WinMe, Win2k, XP, 2003 Server), CPU (Intel, AMD, Cyrix)... I got many random reboots or crash, it's was a same problem with XProtector.

Sometimes work... I don't know why sometime I got a reboot of system ...without changing nothing... just execute :-(  
When you have this bug report from the customer, can imagine time lost to know where the problem come and to fix it ...

Currently Themida is same than XProtector... for me is unstable ...

"Nick Rollas" <nickrollas@hotmail.com> a écrit dans le message de news:423a067e@newsgroups.borland.com...

- > *Since your software is running in user-mode (Ring3), any kernel-mode (Ring0)*
- > *tool can spy, debug and crack your program. Thats why everything can be*
- > *cracked. Most of crackers tools are running in kernel mode making possible*
- > *to watch your protection routines in low level, study them and therefore*
- > *crack.*
- >
- > *There is a new software protector (Themida), actually the first one, that*
- > *runs in kernel mode (ring0), in the same level cracking tools are running.*
- > *Its more more difficult (in some cases impossible) for cracking tools to*
- > *fight against the protection routines because they are running in the same*
- > *operation level. On the other hand, when protection runs on the higher*
- > *operation level, it has all the privileges enabled and almost everything*
- > *is*
- > *possible. For example, regural software protections such as ASProtect,*
- > *IonWorx, ACProtect, Armadillo, running in user mode (ring3) are unable to*
- > *use global-scope registry hookers to protect specific registry keys used*
- > *by*
- > *protection routines. Themida, is running in kernel mode (ring0) and it is*
- > *able to run any system hooking or protection is necessary to prevent from*
- > *cracking.*
- >

> *The disadvantage is that kernel mode (ring0) protection requires a device  
> driver (small one) to be installed in the user machine. Unfortunately,  
due  
> to the plethora of cpus and hardwares around there are some stability  
> issues. Some crashes on some old or very new machines. But, its the only  
one  
> it supports 64bit and dual xeon cpus. I can see that version by version  
the  
> product is becoming more stable and in a few months Im sure it will be  
very  
> stable. Anyway. I recommend this product only in big projects or business  
> applications. I dont recommend to use Themida in small utilities.  
>  
> You can check it at [www.oreans.com](http://www.oreans.com). Im excited with it. Im waiting for the  
> upcoming WinLicense which will support licensing. According to the author,  
> it will use revolutionary technologies, never seen before on the security  
> market and it will be the first protector that will ensure a secure full  
> functional trial distribution. The old traditional security gap of  
comparing  
> BEFORE to AFTER, to detect the changes done in registry and/or files is  
> already filled. As you understand, that is only possible when running in  
> kernel mode (ring0).  
>  
> PS: For your information, there is one more software protection that runs  
in  
> ring0, but its not a regular software protector in the form ASprotect. Its  
> the Starforce ([www.star-force.com](http://www.star-force.com)) that protects CDs (usually games). That  
> means the everytime your application is running, the CD is required on the  
> cd drive. That system puts in my mind the old days we were running  
software  
> with a special 3,5" floppy disk on the drive. At last, CD/DVD protection  
> makes the e-distribtion impossible, because the CD/DVD media is required  
to  
> run the software.  
>  
> Nick  
>  
>  
> "Steven Yates" <[duel@telkomsa.net](mailto:duel@telkomsa.net)> wrote in message  
> news:42398534@newsgroups.borland.com...  
>> Hi All  
>>  
>> Two questions:  
>>  
>> 1.) I have had a look at Turbopower's Onguard – how hard is this to  
crack  
>> for the average hacker?  
>> 2.) Can anyone reccomend near bullet proof software protection or the  
best  
>> there is ?  
>>*

> > *Thanks*

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