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Concerns and recommendations regarding software copyrights  
Draft IP policy

I propose the following wording be added to the Cal Poly IP policy:

The proprietary rights available to cover software are unique in that both copyright and patent are available. Copyright may cover the expression of the software ideas in a tangible medium while patent may cover algorithmic inventions. Due to this dual nature, software should first be considered under the Patent provisions at II. B. (check this location in the document) and is therefore subject to disclosure respecting any underlying algorithms that appear to have commercial value. After consideration of patent for valuable software algorithms, copyright should be considered.

In accordance with section I C (1), the University explicitly favors the copyright of source code as well as its underlying object code. This is in contrast with the common commercial practice that utilizes trade secrecy for source code in order to prevent the dissemination and discussion of any innovative ideas it reveals. As with the underlying algorithms that, if patented, must be published so that they may be studied and discussed by other researchers, the University believes that source code should be published in a form that is amenable to research and will promote scientific progress. The object code is similarly subject to copyright.

Terms that may need definition in our definition of terms section (rough definitions included, need refinement):

Software - computer instructions, data and accompanying documentation

Algorithm - a logical arithmetical or computational procedure that if correctly applied ensures the solution of a problem.

Source Code - an original computer program written by a programmer in human understandable form. It is converted into the equivalent object program, written in machine language, by the compiler or assembler. (both from Collins Dictionary) in order to run on a computer.

Object Code - the form of a program that is executable by a machine (or useable

by an assembler that translates it directly to machine understandable language).  
this form of software is not readable or modifiable by human beings other than  
through extraordinary effort.