

Lee Sheldon
Hydro Engineering Specialist

Dear Lee,

I'm developing an uneasy feeling about this. The adversarial relationship developing between me and the newly assigned project manager has been escalating for weeks, and now has crossed a line. Ed's bullying, abrasive and now deceptive practices will be tolerated no longer. As an officer and a gentleman, I'm sure you're familiar with codes of conduct that do not permit lying, cheating or stealing, or tolerating those who do.

Your comment that Dan Perrier is complaining about my complaining tells me that Corps people have passed along my comments about his slipshod workmanship and refusal to help me when the method he prepared for me wouldn't work. I didn't trust him then, and I trust him even less now. I'm finding his fingerprints on everything that breaks bad for me out there, and I'm getting suspicious of Ed's level of involvement with ACSI; he was too quick to jump to Dan's defense when I told him what happened with the RSLinx software.

Ed wants me to come out there alone on the 20th, leaving Greg, my assistant/bodyguard behind. With the hard feelings and the amount of money on the line, I'm concerned for my safety going to the project alone in a car with Ed, Dan, and whoever else they bring along. Thanks, but no thanks.

I'm no longer under contract, my software and hardware are essentially complete and ready to test. In truth, I can take it anywhere I want. Dave said if I walked away from this now; due to the many changes to the specification and dirty tricks that have been pulled on me, the Corps would probably just write it off.

I'd like to reconsider taking what I have now to Clarence Cannon. I feel I will get better, fairer treatment and less crap from the people there. Don Sachs is retiring soon, and would be a good addition to my staff as the USACE liaison. Mr. Kerr in your office was receptive to working with me - if his people would go for it. Believe me, they will.

I'm writing this to get you up to speed on a security issue and ask for your help. It will put Ed in his place as well. As a subcontractor, I have every right to protect my intellectual property in any way I see fit; I'm invoking that right at this time.

About a month ago, when Ed was pressuring me to get the ITB out there, he tipped his hand by telling me he intended to get rid of my Visual Basic program and rewrite the entire program in C or some other "real" programming language. I pointed out to him that he wasn't going to get the source code for the really tricky part of the program. Letting him get the source code to transcribe it into another language is tantamount to just giving it away. Again, no thanks.

In the contract extension Dave Ebner sent me last week, Dave was surprised to see the changes on the last page. Ed had the last look at it before it went to Renee for

final typing, and then due to the shortness of time Dave just forwarded it to me without reading it fully because he got it late in the day on the 31st, the last day of the contract.

I read it and found some problems which I detailed in an Email to Dave on Friday morning. Ed had modified and added text in two places that could be presumed to give him full source code and allow him to use the program in 2 places and in "other PCs" at will. This attempted subverting of my Copyright protection and cheating me out of the distribution price agreed to in our original negotiations was unethical on Ed's part, and I object vehemently.

In conversation on Friday, Dave told me that he knew nothing about the changes Ed put it, and that Ed had held on to the document until the last minute on the afternoon of the last day, thus preventing Dave from having ample time to really look at what he was sending to me. To my sensibilities, Dave seemed upset with Ed without my encouragement.

This attempt to steal my source code and money are too flagrant for me to abide. I want Ed off the project as the lead, or there will be no deal. He thinks I'm too lazy to read the full text, or too stupid to see what he tried to pull. Whatever he was thinking; this is disrespectful.

Back to the security issue...

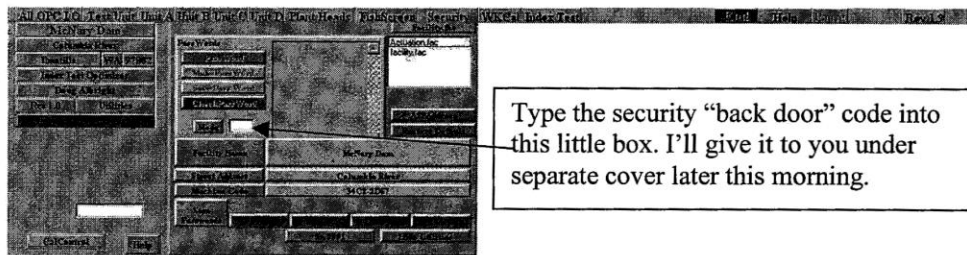
To prevent the use of unauthorized copies, the software has a security panel on it that looks at the address typed into the form, the serial number of the computer and then creates a password necessary to enable the program. If the password isn't entered the program won't run.

For my friends and people I trust, I put a shortcut in the security panel, a "back door" if you will.

In the version of the program that Ed has now, the back door sequence is his name "EdMiska". When this character string is typed into the form's key-panel, the password is ciphered, displayed and stored, but no more...

Now that I feel Ed is untrustworthy, I've taken out the "EdMiska" password and put in a new one, "____,____&____". When I sent the next version to Ed, he will need to have you go over and enter the new secret password to enable the program for him.

Here's how to run the security panel of the program.



This is the security panel. When the program starts without a correct password entered, this panel shows up just like this and none of the functional panels will show.

The yellow panels have the source data for the password creation. If there's no one I can trust, the passwords are entered the hard way by EMailing a picture of this panel (or reading off the text in the yellow boxes) to me. I will create the password and send it back, then they can manually enter it into the red boxes on the form.

If someone I trust (Dave Ebner or You) is available, I'll give you the back door code, but no one else.

Type this code into the little box shown in the figure above. The characters disappear as soon as you type them in. You'll know the new character is entered whenever the box to the left changes color.

If you mess up the data entry, enter a small letter "q" into the little box. The box to the left will turn green, letting you know the back door string buffer is empty and you're ready to start again. (As you might guess, the password can't have the letter "q" in it...)

As soon as you enter the back door password, the red boxes across the bottom will display the new password and turn green, enabling the rest of the program. The program is now ready to run. Take that, Ed...

Best regards,
Doug.