## Independent JPEG Group: JPEG release 6b

### JPEG License

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of commercial products, provided that all warranty or liability claims are

assumed by the product vendor.

It appears that the arithmetic coding option of the JPEG spec is covered

by patents owned by IBM, AT&T, and Mitsubishi. Hence arithmetic coding

cannot legally be used without obtaining one or more licenses. For this

reason, support for arithmetic coding has been removed from the free

JPEG software. (Since arithmetic coding provides only a marginal gain

over the unpatented Huffman mode, it is unlikely that very many

implementations will support it.) So far as we are aware, there are

no patent restrictions on the remaining code.

The IJG distribution formerly included code to read and write GIF files.

To avoid entanglement with the Unisys LZW patent, GIF reading support

has been removed altogether, and the GIF writer has been simplified to

produce "uncompressed GIFs". This technique does not use the LZW algorithm;

the resulting GIF files are larger than usual, but are readable by all

standard GIF decoders.

We are required to state that "The Graphics Interchange Format(c) is

the Copyright property of CompuServe Incorporated. GIF(sm) is a

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