ROOMS USERS' RULES

This document describes the rules and procedures for "Rooms Users" modules. This document is mainly for Rooms Users' module writers, but users should also understand the rules.

DEVELOPING A ROOMS USERS' MODULE

A Rooms Users' module is a useful program made available to the general Rooms community. Neither the author nor the custodian of Rooms Users' imputes any warranty of suitability or responsibility for errors.

Rooms Users' modules should be easily distinguishable from released library and Lisp Users' modules. In particular, this means that a Rooms Users' module may not have the same name as a Library or Lisp Users' module and should be visibly different. Rooms Users' modules derived from released software should be announced to the public only after communicating with the organization responsible for that released software.

Testing is important. If you make significant changes to a Rooms Users' module, enlist users at your site as alpha testers. A Rooms Users' module is not shoddy software; it is software made available outside the regular release channels.

ROOMS USERS' MODULE OWNERSHIP

A module submitted for Rooms Users' remains the "property" of the submitter. Others may not make changes, except for their own private use, without negotiating with the owner (who may already be making similar or incompatible changes).

As the owner of a module, you are not required to fix bugs, but if not, you must be willing to transfer ownership (permanently) to someone who volunteers to fix them. Ownership may pass back and forth among several people as long as they agree.

SUBMITTING ROOMS USERS' MODULES

If you are not an internal user, you should submit your new module to us through e-mail or on a floppy or tape. External users should make sure that they include all relevant information, such as documentation containing an e-mail or US mail address where he/she can be reached.

SUBMITTING FILES TO ROOMS USERS'

As with released software, it is important to submit not just the resulting product, but all the files needed to build and maintain a Rooms Users' module:

  1. the file to load (.LCOM or .dfasl or .SUITE)

  2. documentation describing it, following the formatting rules (see below)

  3. a source file that can be released (optional)

  4. data files, if needed

Modules submitted once are released once. Do not assume that a module submitted for one release will be automatically released in subsequent releases.

DOCUMENTATION

No modules will be released without documentation. Documentation can be as simple as a paragraph describing what the module does and how to use it, or it can be as extensive as a dozen-page user manual. All modules should have a file with a .TEDIT extension. Formatting should be done according to the rules outlined in the Rooms Users' Template, included on the Rooms Users floppy or tape as EASYTEMPLATE.TEDIT and also printed in this document. All users, external users included, should follow the Rooms Users' Template rules. If the documentation is large and formatting time consuming, you can also produce an interpress file (with the .ip extension), as well as submitting a .TEdit file. (Be sure to update the interpress file if you update the documentation!) Documentation should include the full address of the submitter.

COMPATIBILITY

Any submitted Rooms Users' files should be compilable in a "vanilla" Rooms environment. The file itself should load in any auxiliary modules when necessary.

Thanks for your cooperation.