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Chapter 9 Discussion Question

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I feel that the software is not partially owned by the company. Because the software was developed in the engineer's free time, the software is owned by that engineer. The engineer took her own time to write the software to assist in her day-to-day operations, and if it is applicable at her next job, then she should be able to use the software at her new job. When I worked as an intern at a company over the summer, I was tasked with recording the computer information for every computer used by the company. I took some of time in work and outside of work to develop a piece of software that would assist me in recording the information required to complete the work. Because this software was developed partially at work and was based off of other software used at the company, I left the software with my supervisor and asked to be able to use the software on my resume. I believe that because the software was made even partially on company time, that the software was the property of the company. My supervisor never asked me to make this software, but I felt it would increase my productivity and help me to finish my work faster. This does not change the fact that the software is the property of the company.

I think it would be a good idea to ask for the employer's permission to use the software, just as a formality and as a show of good will. Simply taking the software and telling your employer nothing about it could cause problems, and it is never a good idea to burn bridges. The employer could use the fact that you took the software as a negative reflection on your ethics in any recommendations they make. Atleast informing the employer could prevent that and open a discussion of how the employer sees the ownership of the software.