

Scenario: Using Public Domain Software in Proprietary Software

In this case, Jake did not do anything wrong. I think he is just more creative and business minded than Earl that's why when he saw the article that Earl published in the newspaper and download the software from for free, he thought that it is a bright piece of software and come up with an idea of modifying it then sell it to the market. What Jake did was not wrong and besides he modified and does some revision to the code from Earl's source code and then put a copyright and he informed Earl about what he did.

Of course it is normal that Earl will be miffed that Jake is selling the revised software but he doesn't have the right to stop Jake because what Jake doing is completely legal and maybe he is annoyed not only to Jake but also ho himself because he spent a year to develop the virus tester and at the end he will not going to have a profit at the end and the worst is other person got the benefit from his work.

Jake does not have the obligation to offer his revision for free; he can give it to public for free or sell it. The copyright is under his name that's why he can do whatever he wants, either sell it or give it for free.