

## Sharon Perry's post on a Gammill Forum

towards the end of March 2017

Gammill invited me to be on a closed forum which amongst other things was set up to determine .... the marketability ..of (CS7).

I put up a post (below) as I felt that the issues I had concerns about needed to be addressed and I could not see that they had. I felt that without answers there could well be negative effects for everyone. (see the post – it outlines some of them)

Within about half an hour of the post my questions were removed from the forum, and I was permanently denied access to it. I was expecting some sort of communication about it from Gammill to let me know what was happening and why - but no, they initiated nothing at all.

It appears that they have sought very limited input from designers. For me, it would have been great if we could have all 'nutted this out' together so that we could (by and large) all be on board with this.

Reading through this post again, I see that I now have the answer to one of my questions – the CS7 release does allow for projects to be transferred using a thumb-drive, so that is great.

However, since this post back in March 2017 – I have become more educated in the cloud area, and lots of other issues are now clear to me. I have engaged an expert in the area and he can see many more – which he has attempted to explain to me, but I have a wee way to go on them.

Please note – my resignation as a Gammill Certified Instructor had nothing to do with these matters.

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To date there has not been a Designers' Webinar and CS7 is due to be released any day soon so I am raising the matters here. They relate to Gammill's proposed 'cloud' services – quilters uploading (or not being able to upload) their patterns onto Gammill's and questions about what Certified Trainers should do in this area.

I looked up Wikipedia to see what they noted as potential issues with cloud computing:

*'Most issues start from the fact that the user loses control of his or her data, because it is stored on a computer belonging to someone else (the cloud provider). This happens when the owner of the remote servers is a person or organization other than the user; as their interests may point in different directions (for example, the user may wish that his or her information is kept private, but the owner of the remote servers may want to take advantage of it for their own business....*

*.... This access has the immense risk of data being disclosed either accidentally or deliberately. Privacy advocates have criticized the cloud model for giving hosting companies' greater ease to control – and*

*thus, to monitor at will – communication between hose company and end user, and access user data (with or without permission)*

So in relation to 'cloud' computing Wikipedia notes the potential of conflict of interests and the possibilities of data accidentally or deliberately being misused. There are also the matters of security, copyright and/or terms of trade infringements.

As I see it ALL these matters must be clearly addressed by Gammill before any release.

Interested parties are not only quilters who have purchased designs, but also the designers who sold them the designs. For many designers, customers purchase a license to use and the designer is specific as to what the use is to be. Sometimes the terms of trade include specifics of what cannot be done with their designs including NOT being able to upload them onto other people's servers – and this would include Gammill's servers ('cloud').

If Gammill uses their servers (or servers they lease) for an embedded pattern management system, then there are at least the following issues:

1. In regard to those customers who have purchased designs with restricted use licences such that they could not legally put these patterns onto Gammill's 'cloud', then CS7 may be of little or no use to them. Just for starters - how would one transfer any project planning done on another computer to the one used for stitching? When using CS7 it seems that it cannot be done without going through the cloud?
2. In regard to those patterns which can be legally place onto Gammill's server(s):
  - a) the quilter who put them there would no longer have sole control over patterns they had purchased, designed themselves etc,
  - b) the designer would have lost control of their pattern(s) to a party other than the customers they sold the designs to.
  - c) Gammill would accumulate copies of each of the uploaded patterns and soon potentially be in control of a large portion of some designers' portfolios.

Certified Instructors would have to somehow ensure that we were not encouraging CS7 users to infringe copyright and/or terms of trade by uploading patterns which should not be. I have not seen Gammill's advice to us on this.

Gammill themselves have to ensure that they have done all they can to not encourage, entice or require CS7 users to infringe copyright and/or terms of trade, (amongst other things).

As of yet I cannot see that Gammill has addressed any of the issues I am raising and would like further information.

If I have missed a post or something about this, apologies – please let me know.

Sharon.