I can't say it any better than this:

When Congress shifted our system of copyright from an "opt-in" to an "opt-out" regime, it transformed copyright from a system that

automatically narrowed its protection (and hence regulation) to those works that had some continuing need for copyright protection,

to a system that totally indiscriminately spreads copyright to every creative work reduced to a tangible form -- automatically, and

for the full term of copyright.

We need to return to an opt-in system, with a central registry that can be queried on the net. Anything not worth registering is not worth copyright protection.

Michael Goodfellow