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To: Jule L. Sigall Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

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From: David Ashby

Comment:

Copyrights are a great idea, in theory. But when they end up stifiling creativity due to an inane length that makes the ability to track down the current owners of a piece of music written in the 50's, for example, almost impossible. They might not even know they even control the copyright, but this ambiguity scares modern users of electronic systems - if a modern remixer wanted to legally use the song (or pieces of the song), they have to track them down.

To use another case, abandonware. This relativly recent creation of the internet era is when, in the early days of computing, many people got involved, created a game or two in small quantities, and then went under. These early games are often very enjoyable, but are illegal to copy and distribute due to their copyrighted status - even though the creators no longer ener remember that they created them or care to bother with them.