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

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Jay Hamill

Comment:

There is a LOT of software for Commodore 8-bit computers (C64, C128, Plus/4, Vic-20, etc...) that was made by companies no longer in existance. The computer industry moves so fast, that older software is abandoned and forgotten about. This software, is not supported, sold, or distributed by any company anymore, and it sure isn't making any company a profit. But, to the group of Commodore enthusiasts, this software is needed to use the hardware we keep running for years and years. Floppy disks often become corrupted due to age, and software must be transferred to other medium to be preserved. So, for the sake of allowing us to keep our hobby alive, orphan software should be in the public domain, as long as nobody else is "selling" copies of the software. Selling an original piece of software should always be allowed, as you're now paying for the medium and any accompanying documentation and packaging, not for a "license" to use it.