

## **Web Copyright Law**

Copyright is a much discussed topic when it comes to technology. A big problem right now is the fact that many people are downloading tons of MP3 files and entire movies without paying for it. In the web, copyright can be found all over as well as copyright infringements.

Professor Blaine Robertson from Brigham Young University – Idaho, published guidelines that, if followed, will help you comply with copyright. These four guidelines/rules are:

1. If the resource states that the materials are free and can be used without permission, use them.
2. If the resource states that the materials are free and can be used after meeting certain standards, then see if you meet the standards and if you do then use the materials.
3. If the resource is copyrighted then leave it alone unless you ask and receive permission to use it.
4. If the resource is silent on whether or not it is copyrighted, then assume it is and follow the same steps listed in number 3.

He even states that “if one will follow these four simple rules of thumb that it will be possible to remain right with copyright.”

In 1976 congress passed a law to protect the owners of “original works of authorship” from thievery. The law prevents unauthorized reproduction and commercialization of any material which includes but is not limited to, images, text, music, stage plays, and movies. Items that can be copyrighted are tangible objects. These are literary works, musical works, and

dramatic works, choreographic works pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works, motion pictures and other audiovisual works, sound recordings and architectural works.

There are a few different methods to use so you can protect your website and its content.

If you created a website for your company, you probably invested some time and money that you would like to have it protected against copy and unauthorized usage.

The two primary methods of protection are technical countermeasures and legal protection. Technical countermeasures include strategies such as digital watermarking and spiders that search the Internet for copies of your pages or graphics. These strategies tend to be cumbersome, expensive, or user-unfriendly. The primary vehicle for legal protection is copyright. This is by far the easiest and most popular form of protection in use today.

Can net surfers save Web pages on their hard disks for their own later use? It would be unreasonable to prohibit Web browsers from storing a copy on a hard disk for caching purposes. Simply as a matter of public policy, caching Web pages must be allowed by implied consent of the copyright owner. Net traffic would get extremely congested if every Web page access that could otherwise be cached had to be resent.

### **Restrictions:**

When a work is copyrighted, unless you are the owner or have the specific permission of the owner, you cannot legally make a physical or electronic copy of a complete work. In the case of software, since you must copy it to your computer, and want to be able to back it up, license agreements usually accompany software that spell out what you can and cannot do.

**Ownership:**

Copyright may be owned by its creator(s) or by an organization and may be transferred to others.

Generally, works created by employees of a company are owned by the company. Works for hire generally belong to the contracting company, but may depend on the provisions of the specific contracts involved. The owner of a copyright may give up the copyright and release the work to the public domain.

**Conclusion –**

As we all know, it is important to respect other people's rights. If we all try to follow the copyright laws we are respecting the work and effort of people that devote their time to create things and want to protect it.

## Work Cited

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