

Internet and Copyright

Abstract

This diploma thesis focuses on copyright in the field of the Internet. The aim of this thesis is to define the terms Internet and copyright and describe some of the legal and illegal methods of use of an author's work including the legal regulation of copyright liability in the digital environment.

The text of the thesis is divided into five chapters, which are further divided into subchapters. The first chapter is devoted to the definition of the term Internet, the division of its users, and a brief history of its development. The second chapter then describes the system of copyright and focuses on the legal interpretation of an author's work, and the author himself. At the end of the chapter, the issue of determining applicable law in copyright conflicts in an international context is approached.

The third chapter introduces the different ways in which an author's work can be legally used. Thus, it focuses on the contractual use through license agreements and non-contractual use, i.e., use based on a legal license or the institute of fair use. Subsequently, the third chapter defines selected forms of use of works protected by copyright (*uploading*, *downloading* and *streaming*) in the digital environment.

The penultimate chapter of this thesis is key, as it analyses liability for copyright infringement. It deals with the possible claims of an author over unauthorized infringement of his copyright in relation to both private and public law. Finally, the chapter explains the main differences between the liability of an individual user and an Internet service provider.

The last chapter builds on the analysis and findings of the previous chapter and discusses current copyright law reform in the European Union, in particular Article 17 of the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market and its impact on the development of liability in relation to some Internet service providers. Finally, the chapter critically evaluates the relationship of the directive to the current copyright statute and the possible impact of its implementation on the legal systems of individual member states of the European Union.

The Conclusion summarizes the most important points of this thesis and emphasizes the need to amend and adapt copyright law to the current state of digital environment, where any regulation should take into consideration open Internet access rights.

Key words:

Internet, Copyright, Liability