

## Abstract

The thesis titled "*The Internet and copyright - the scope of liability of individual parties involved and modes of protection against piracy*" deals with both, the protection of copyright and the scope of liability of various actors in the Internet environment. The content of the thesis is divided into four chapters, which allows the reader to be gradually acquainted with the whole issue.

The first part briefly mentions development of the Internet network and its incorporation into the Czech legal order. The second chapter is devoted to the copyright protection in the Internet environment. Its content focuses on the most common methods of use of the author's work via the Internet, which is a reproduction of the work and its publication. This chapter further describes the development and operation of data sharing through *peer-to-peer* systems. Furthermore, it also deals with the issue of downloading of the work and application of the statutory exemption from liability for personal use only. The scope of liability in the Internet environment is largely harmonized by European provisions. For this reason, the third chapter contains the development phase of liability of the Internet services providers in the European countries. The first part of the third chapter demonstrates different approaches to the intermediaries' liability by discussing various Member States courts' rulings. The next section describes harmonizing E-Commerce Directive and includes consideration of its deficiency. The penultimate section of the third chapter is devoted to the development of the European legislation by the judgements of the CJEU and the final section is devoted to recent developments in the context of creating a Digital Single Market in Europe. The very last chapter aims to analyse the scope of liability for personal and third-party content. It is divided into two main sections based on the originator of the content. With regard to liability for users' generated content, the system of exceptions of certain intermediaries from liability is analysed in detail in the very last part of the fourth chapter.

The very core of the thesis is the analysis of civil liability of individual entities in the Internet environment with emphasis on violations of copyright provisions. The author's attention is also focused on the special liability regime which is guaranteed to some intermediaries in relation to foreign content. Historical excursus on development of special liability regime for foreign content precedes a thorough analysis of the system of exemptions from liability, allowing the reader to better understand the meaning and purpose of this institute. The thesis analyzes the transposition of horizontal exemptions from liability which

was not entirely successfully achieved in the law on certain services in the information society. For this reason, the interpretation of the requirements for obtaining an exemption from liability has to be compatible with the European directive and has to reflect the provisions of the development on the basis of the decision of the CJEU. The thesis aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of infringement of copyright in the Internet environment and the associated scope of civil liability of individual parties.