

## Copyright and Patent Reform [1]



Caring

Sharing is

*"The only way to even try to limit file sharing, is to introduce surveillance of everybody's private communication."*

— [Christian Engström Rick Falkvinge \[2\]](#), [The Case for Copyright Reform \[3\]](#)

## Copyright

The Pirate Party wants a fair and balanced copyright law that is suitable for the 21st century. Copyright should give artists the first chance to make money from their work, however that needs to be balanced with the rights of society as a whole.

We would reduce the duration of copyright to 10 years - closer to the original duration of 14 years - reflecting the much greater ease with which works can now be made and distributed.

Shorter copyright will encourage artists to keep on creating new work, will allow new art forms (such as mash-ups) and will stop big businesses from relying on large back-catalogues rather than investing in new content.

Our 10 year copyright length will include within it a renewal after 5 years (allowing works in which the creator is no longer interested to fall into the public domain after 5 years). An exception will be made for software, where a 5 year term will apply to closed source software and a 10 year term to open source software, in

recognition of the extra rights given to the public by open source licences.

## Patents



We believe that patents exist to reward the inventors of truly outstanding ideas, not to allow big businesses to stifle competition with an ever-growing tide of trivial, incomprehensible, overreaching patents.

We will stop the abuse of patent law by raising the bar on how innovative an idea has to be before it can be patented, and by prohibiting patents on software, business methods, concepts and works of nature.

We will require a working model to be provided to the patent office before a patent is granted and we will strictly enforce the current rule that patents are invalid if they are "obvious to someone skilled in the art".

### What we can do

- Fight for comprehensive and sensible copyright and patent reforms.
- Make the case to repeal sections 3 to 18 of the Digital Economy Act 2010 and strengthen the current protections against excessive or frivolous lawsuits for copyright infringement.
- Work against any attempt to introduce any new blank media taxes.
- Ensure that we maintain and expand the current list of important national events that cannot be exclusively broadcast by pay TV services.

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### Links

- [1] <http://legacy.pirateparty.org.uk/campaigns/issues/copyright-and-patent-reform>  
[2] [http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5827904.Christian\\_Engstr\\_m\\_Rick\\_Falkvinge](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5827904.Christian_Engstr_m_Rick_Falkvinge)  
[3] <http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/19229459>