

Creative Commons

Gloria Boadwee

Creative Commons is a global nonprofit organization that enables **sharing and reuse** of creativity and knowledge through the provision of **free legal tools**. Our legal tools help those who want to encourage reuse of their works by offering them for use under generous, standardized terms; those who want to make creative uses of works; and those who want to benefit from this symbiosis. Our vision is to help others realize the full potential of the internet. CC has affiliates all over the world who help ensure our licenses work internationally and who raise awareness of our work.

<https://creativecommons.org/>

History

- first fully-fledged copyright law was enacted in 1709, shortly after the invention of the printing press.

- The **Statute of Anne**, also known as the **Copyright Act 1710** is an act of the Parliament of Great Britain passed in 1710
- First statute to provide for copyright regulated by the government and courts, rather than by private parties.

The **Copyright Term Extension Act** of 1998 extended copyright terms in the United States.

- Following the Copyright Act of 1976, copyright would last for the life of the author plus 50 years, or 75 years for a work of corporate authorship. The 1976 Act also increased the extension term for works copyrighted before 1978 that had not already entered the public domain from 28 years to 47 years, giving a total term of 75 years.

- Eric Eldred ran a website that reprinted works whose copyright had expired, making them more widely available in a variety of formats. The act was going to destroy his business for the next twenty years, so he went to court to argue that the act was unconstitutional.



- Eldred was joined by a selection of other commercial and non-commercial interests, and his lawyer was Lawrence Lessig, a political activist and professor at Harvard Law School.



- On 17 February, 1999, Lessig formed a collection of people to help fight the case, which was named the **Copyrights Commons**. Among them were Eldred and Hal Abelson, a professor of electrical engineering and computer science at MIT.

- Lessig said in a presentation at the iCommons Summit in Japan on 30 July, 2008: "It was intended as a grass-roots movement of creators, otherwise known as copyright owners, who would look at this default of 'all rights reserved' and say 'I don't need all rights', the most they need is some rights." He added: "Not supporting stealing, but supporting authors freeing the part of the rights granted to them by the law that they don't need."

- **Creative Commons** founded in 2001 by Lawrence Lessig, Hal Abelson, and Eric Eldred



Larry Lessig
Professor/Scholar
Harvard Law



Hal Abelson
Computer Scientist
MIT



Eric Eldred
Web Publisher

- First set of licenses issued on December 16, 2002, inspired in part by the GNU General Public License.

- By 2003, one million works had been given a Creative Commons licence. By 2004, that had risen to nearly 5 million, and version 2.0 of the licences was released -- making a demand for attribution standard in licences, demanding links back to the original work, and making share-alike work across borders.





- By 2005, the number of licensed works had risen to 20 million and by 2006 that had increased to 50 million, helped in no small part by the growth of the photo-sharing site Flickr, which made available the option of licensing under Creative Commons to its users and widely publicised it. By 2007, five years after the licences were first unveiled, 90 million works were available from Creative Commons and version 3.0 of the licenses were released

- By 2007, five years after the licenses were first unveiled, 90 million works were available from Creative Commons and version 3.0 of the licences were released (version in use today)

- 2008: Lawrence Lessig stepped down as CEO, replaced by Joi Ito

- Today, Creative Commons has more than 350 million CC-licensed pieces of content.
- The organization's recent efforts focused on making the organization more global, educating the World Intellectual Property Organization about how CC works, how copyright should be addressed in a digital age, planning version 4.0 of the licenses.

Creators choose a set of conditions to apply to their work

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- **ShareAlike**  You let others copy, distribute, display, perform, and modify your work, as long as they distribute any modified work on the same terms
- **NonCommercial**  You let others copy, distribute, display, perform, and (unless you have chosen NoDerivatives) modify and use your work for any purpose other than commercially unless they get your permission
- **NoDerivatives**  You let others copy, distribute, display and perform only original copies of your work. If they want to modify your work, they must get your permission



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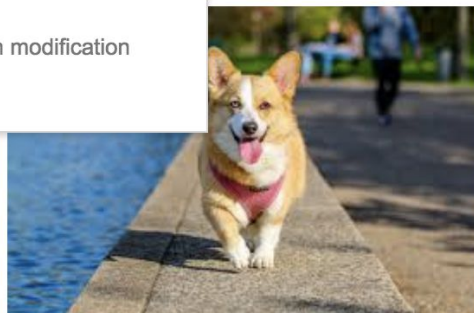
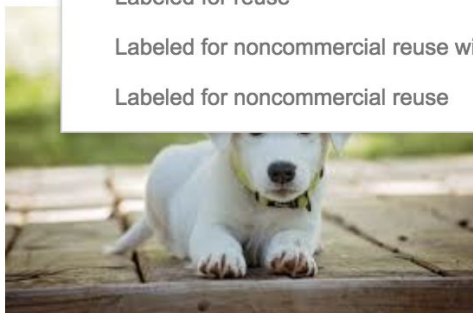
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