



Petition to Renew a Current Exemption Under 17 U.S.C. § 1201

8th Triennial Rulemaking

Please submit a separate petition for each current exemption for which renewal is sought.

NOTE: Use this form if you want to renew a current exemption without modification. If you are seeking to engage in activities not currently permitted by an existing exemption, including those that would require the expansion of a current exemption, you must submit a petition for a new exemption using the form available at <https://www.copyright.gov/1201/2021/new-petition.pdf>.

If you are seeking to expand a current exemption, we recommend that you submit both a petition to renew the current exemption without modification using this form, and, separately, a petition for a new exemption that identifies the current exemption, and addresses only those issues relevant to the proposed expansion of that exemption.

ITEM A. PETITIONERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Please identify the petitioners and provide a means to contact the petitioners and/or their representatives, if any. The “petitioner” is the individual or entity seeking renewal.

Software Preservation Network

represented by:

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Library Copyright Alliance

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Privacy Act Advisory Statement: Required by the Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)

The authority for requesting this information is 17 U.S.C. §§ 1201(a)(1) and 705. Furnishing the requested information is voluntary. The principal use of the requested information is publication on the Copyright Office website and use by Copyright Office staff for purposes of the rulemaking proceeding conducted pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1201(a)(1). NOTE: No other advisory statement will be given in connection with this application. Please keep this statement and refer to it if we communicate with you regarding this petition.

ITEM B. IDENTIFY WHICH CURRENT EXEMPTION PETITIONERS SEEK TO RENEW

Check the appropriate box below that corresponds with the current temporary exemption (see **37 C.F.R. § 201.40**) the petitioners seek to renew. Please check only one box. If renewal of more than one exemption is sought, a separate petition must be submitted for each one.

Motion Pictures (including television programs and videos):

- Excerpts for educational purposes by college and university or K-12 faculty and students
- Excerpts for educational purposes by faculty in massive open online courses (“MOOCs”)
- Excerpts for educational purposes in digital and literacy programs offered by libraries, museums, and other nonprofits
- Excerpts for use in nonfiction multimedia e-books
- Excerpts for use in documentary filmmaking or other films where use is in parody or for a biographical or historically significant nature
- Excerpts for use in noncommercial videos
- For the provision of captioning and/or audio description by disability services offices or similar units at educational institutions for students with disabilities

Literary Works:

- Literary works distributed electronically (*i.e.*, e-books), for use with assistive technologies for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or have print disabilities
- Literary works consisting of compilations of data generated by implanted medical devices and corresponding personal monitoring systems, to access personal data

Computer Programs and Video Games:

- Computer programs that operate cellphones, tablets, mobile hotspots, or wearable devices (*e.g.*, smartwatches), to allow connection of a new or used device to an alternative wireless network (“unlocking”)
- Computer programs that operate smartphones, tablets and other all-purpose mobile computing devices, smart TVs, or voice assistant devices to allow the device to interoperate with or to remove software applications (“jailbreaking”)
- Computer programs that control motorized land vehicles, including farm equipment, for purposes of diagnosis, repair, or modification of the vehicle, including to access diagnostic data
- Computer programs that control smartphones, home appliances, or home systems, for diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of the device or system
- Computer programs for purposes of good-faith security research
- Computer programs other than video games, for the preservation of computer programs and computer program-dependent materials by libraries, archives, and museums
- Video games for which outside server support has been discontinued, to allow individual play by gamers and preservation of games by libraries, archives, and museums (as well as necessary jailbreaking of console computer code for preservation uses only), and discontinued video games that never required server support, for preservation by libraries, archives, and museums
- Computer programs that operate 3D printers, to allow use of alternative feedstock

ITEM C. EXPLANATION OF NEED FOR RENEWAL

Provide a brief explanation summarizing the continuing need and justification for renewing the exemption. The Office anticipates that petitioners may provide a paragraph or two detailing this information, but there is no page limit. While it is permissible to attach supporting documentary evidence as exhibits to this petition, it is not necessary. Below is a hypothetical example of the kind of explanation that the Office would regard as sufficient to support renewal of the unlocking exemption. The Office notes, however, that explanations can take many forms and may differ significantly based on the individual making the declaration and the exemption at issue.

I, Kendra Albert, submitter of record, represent the Software Preservation Network ("SPN") and work with the Library Copyright Alliance ("LCA"), two national organizations that preserve digital heritage by making out-of-commerce software accessible, in support of research, teaching and learning. SPN consists of archivists, librarians, scholars, technologists, and legal experts, committed to establishing and retaining access to software (including video games), which would become inaccessible without careful and conscientious stewardship. LCA consists of three major library associations (the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Association of College and Research Libraries), and was established in order to safeguard the interests of librarians and archivists in the realm of copyright law.

SPN and LCA have had intimate engagement with the §1201 process, with participation in the DMCA rulemaking dating back to 2016 and 2000 respectively. During the last triennial rulemaking, SPN and LCA were granted an exemption regarding the preservation rights of libraries, archives and museums, which included independent preservation for discontinued video games. I have personally been involved in the last two triennial rule-makings, and have successfully advocated for exemptions and extensions for both SPN and LCA.

The last triennial rulemaking helpfully expanded the ability of video game archivists and preservationists to continue their work, and ensured the public retained continued access to games on discontinued platforms. Some of this valuable work comes directly from SPN and LCA affiliates. For instance, Georgia Tech Library's Computing Lab, retroTECH, has a significant collection of recovered video game consoles, many of which are made accessible for research and teaching uses by the §1201 exemption. Dozens of Gameboy Advance, console and PC games can now be preserved, with lower risks of copyright infringement claims or legal action.

Other institutions report that the exemption has been similarly helpful. The Museum of Digital Arts and Entertainment ("MADE"), based in Oakland, California, was specific about the value of the 2018 §1201 exemption for their work. Alex Handy, Chairperson of MADE, described how the museum was able to restore a recent PC game, in collaboration with Microsoft and the original developers, despite potential DRM issues. If not for the §1201 exemption, this restoration process may have required Microsoft lawyers to draft complex (and costly) contracts, in order to grant MADE permission to restore and play the game. However, with the recent exemption, the recovery process has become significantly cheaper and easier, making it possible for MADE to gain access to relevant files, and to ensure the restoration project continues.

Projects like these depend on the continued existence of the §1201 exemption for video game archivists and librarians. Without the protections currently afforded by the Copyright Office, many projects, like the ones at retroTECH and MADE would be more legally risky and thus might not happen at all. Therefore, consistent with the Library's rulemaking in 2018, the current §1201 exemption protecting video games should be extended for the next three years, to protect the important work of these preservationists.

ITEM C. EXPLANATION OF NEED FOR RENEWAL (CONT'D)

[Empty box for explanation of need for renewal]

ITEM D. DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE

The declaration is a sworn statement made under penalty of perjury, and must be signed by one of the petitioners named above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the following is true and correct:

1. Based on my own personal knowledge and experience, I have a good faith belief that but for the above-selected exemption's continuation during the next triennial period (October 2021 – October 2024), technological measures controlling access to relevant copyrighted works are likely to diminish the ability of relevant users to make noninfringing uses of these works, and such users are likely to rely upon the above-selected exemption during the next triennial period.
2. To the best of my knowledge, there has not been any material change in the facts, law, or other circumstances set forth in the prior rulemaking record (available at <https://www.copyright.gov/1201/2018>) that originally demonstrated the need for the above-selected exemption, such that renewal of the exemption would not be justified.
3. To the best of my knowledge, the explanation provided in Item C above is true and correct, and supports the above statements.

Name/Organization:

If the petitioner is an entity, this declaration must be signed by an individual at the organization having appropriate personal knowledge.

Software Preservation Network

Signature:

This declaration may be signed electronically (e.g., "/s/ John Smith").

/s/ Kendra Albert

Date:

July 22, 2020