



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

9th 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 copyright.gov/1201/2024/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.

Petitioner: Software Freedom Conservancy
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Brooklyn, NY 11201-3548
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Karen Sandler, Executive Director
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Richard G. Sanders, General Counsel
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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 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
- Excerpts for use in nonfiction multimedia e-books
- Excerpts for educational purposes by college and university faculty, students, or employees acting at the direction of faculty, or K–12 educators and students
- Excerpts for educational purposes by faculty and employees acting at the direction of faculty in massive open online courses (“MOOCs”)
- Excerpts for educational purposes in digital and literacy programs offered by libraries, museums, and other nonprofits
- For the provision of captioning and/or audio description by disability services offices or similar units at educational institutions for students, faculty, or staff with disabilities
- For the preservation or the creation of a replacement copy of the motion picture by libraries, archives, or museums
- For text and data mining by a researcher affiliated with a nonprofit institution of higher education, or by student or staff at the direction of such researcher, for the purpose of scholarly research and teaching

Literary Works:

- Literary works distributed electronically for text and data mining by a researcher affiliated with a nonprofit institution of higher education, or by student or staff at the direction of such researcher, for the purpose of scholarly research and teaching
- Literary works or previously published musical works that have been fixed in the form of text or notation whose technological protection measures interfere with assistive technologies
- Literary works consisting of compilations of data generated by medical devices or their personal corresponding monitoring systems, to access personal data

Computer Programs and Video Games:

- Computer programs that operate wireless devices, to allow connection to an alternative wireless network (“unlocking”)
- Computer programs that operate smartphones and portable all-purpose mobile computing devices to allow the device to interoperate with or to remove software applications (“jailbreaking”)
- Computer programs that operate smart televisions to allow the device to interoperate with software applications on the television for purposes other than gaining unauthorized access to copyrighted works (“jailbreaking”)
- Computer programs that operate voice assistant devices to allow the device to interoperate with or to remove software applications for purposes other than gaining unauthorized access to copyrighted works (“jailbreaking”)
- Computer programs that operate routers and dedicated network devices to allow the device to interoperate with software applications on the device for purposes other than gaining unauthorized access to copyrighted works (“jailbreaking”)
- Computer programs that control motorized land vehicles, marine vessels, or mechanized agricultural vehicles or vessels for purposes of diagnosis, repair, or modification of the vehicle, including to access diagnostic data
- Computer programs that control devices designed primarily for use by consumers for diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of the device or system
- Computer programs that control medical devices or systems, and related data files, for diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of the device or system
- Computer programs for purposes of good-faith security research
- 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 other than video games, for the preservation of computer programs and computer program-dependent materials by libraries, archives, and museums
- Computer programs that operate 3D printers, to allow use of alternative material
- Computer programs for purpose of investigating potential infringement of free and open source computer programs
- Video games in the form of computer programs for purpose of allowing an individual with a physical disability to use alternative software or hardware input methods

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 will 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.

Petitioner Software Freedom Conservancy (SFC) is a not-for-profit organization that helps to promote, improve, develop, and defend Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)—software developed by volunteer communities and licensed for the benefit of everyone. SFC is the nonprofit home for dozens of FOSS projects representing well over a thousand volunteer contributors. Our communities maintain some of the most fundamental utilities in computing today, and introduce innovations that will shape how software will be created in the future.

FOSS is commonly used to operate or provide features for not only laptop computers, desktop computers, smart phones (and other portable computer devices), and networking devices (such as routers), but also consumer devices not normally thought of as “computerized.” Such devices include “internet-of-things” devices, like IP-enabled doorbell cameras, baby monitors, and thermostats. FOSS, however, is governed by license agreements that place affirmative duties on re-distributors of the software and grant rights to downstream licensees. One of those rights is the right to the source code of the FOSS, which permits examination and modification of the FOSS and is also key to further FOSS development. Therefore, software authors, publishers, and developers, as well as consumers who have legally acquired such devices, have an interest in investigating what FOSS is on a particular device and how it is being used.

One of the activities SFC performs on behalf of some of its member projects is to investigate whether third parties are using the project software but failing to comply with the license terms. This activity is a public benefit, as it assures all consumers receive rights guaranteed by copyleft licenses. Typically, SFC receives reports from concerned consumers who report their suspicion that a device contains FOSS but that the terms of the license have not been met. The infringement of FOSS through license non-compliance is so pervasive that SFC can only pursue a fraction of the suspected infringements reported to it.

Based on our observations since 2021, there remains a need for software authors and publishers to investigate FOSS loaded onto computing devices that are potentially infringing. There also remains a need for purchasers of lawfully-acquired computer devices to investigate FOSS loaded onto such devices in order to exercise their rights under the governing license agreement. There also remains a need for software developers to investigate FOSS loaded on to computing devices for purposes of obtaining source code for the FOSS, modifying the FOSS and installing modified version of the FOSS.

Also based on our observations since 2021, the barriers continue to exist and are likely to exist in the near future that prevent these users from obtaining access to the relevant copyrighted works: software- and firmware-encryption schemes that prevent the investigation of computer programs, as well as administrative access controls (such as developer passwords) that prevent access to computer programs.

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

If you need more space, please [click here](#) to add additional pages to this form.

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 2024–October 2027), 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 copyright.gov/1201/2021) 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.

Karen Sandler and Richard G. Sanders
on behalf of Software Freedom Conservancy, Inc.

Signature:

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

/s/Karen M. Sandler
/s/Richard G. Sanders

Date:

July 7, 2023