

From: Kenny Pearce

Comment:

Many portions of current copyright law, particularly those regarding "orphan works," place a number of restrictions on free speech without any substantial benefit to content producers. The most obvious solution is to require copyright holders to keep contact information on file somewhere, and pass a law stating that if this contact information is not kept current (i.e. if an individual wishing to use the copyrighted work makes a substantial effort to contact the copyright holder by the method the copyright holder has specified and is unable to contact him, the work should be able to be used as though it were in the public domain). This solution may have excessive overhead and there are also communication difficulties to be considered, and so the wording of this law would have to be done carefully. Another possibility with much less overhead would be something like the Public Domain Enhancement Act (<http://eldred.cc/p2/>) that requires copyright holders to pay a very small renewal fee after a certain period of time, just to verify that the copyright holder is still in existence and can be found.