

To: Copyright GC/ I&R
P.O. Box 70400
Southwest Station
Washington, DC 20024-0400

From: Chris Thorman
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Date: August 17, 2005

Re: 37 CFR Part 202 [Docket No. RM 2005-9] / Preregistration of Certain
Unpublished Copyright Claims / Requiring Internet Explorer

> Today's notice seeks information as to whether persons filing the electronic-only
preregistration form prescribed by the Copyright Office will experience difficulties if it is necessary
to use Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browser in order to preregister a work.

Dear Copyright Office GC,

There is no legitimate technical reason why a specific web browser should be required to accept copyright registration forms on the Web. All of the basic technology required to receive web-based forms is based on internationally-developed standards. Requiring the particular non-standard software tool of a particular corporation is unnecessary and also inappropriate for a government agency that should be seeking to use international standards and avoid requiring proprietary non-standard corporate-owned technology in order to accomplish basic interactions between citizens and government agencies.

If your developers are claiming that Internet Explorer uniquely offers a capability that is lacking in other browsers, and would be required to process a web-based form, they are wrong.

My sister is a typical example of a person who might be affected by this — she is a poet who uses a Macintosh that does not have Microsoft software on it for reasons of both security (virus-resistance) and conscience. She wishes to preregister her poems before submitting them to journals for possible publication. She does not have the technical skills, nor should she be required, to download and install a non-standards-based browser from Microsoft in order to accomplish this basic task.

Sincerely,



Chris Thorman
Director of Software Development
Church Pension Group
New York, NY

