# WIPO Copyright Treaty

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The World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty (WIPO Copyright Treaty or **WCT**) is an international treaty on copyright law adopted by the member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 1996. It provides additional protections for copyright deemed necessary due to advances in information technology since the formation of previous copyright treaties before it. It ensures that computer programs are protected as literary works (Article 4), and that the arrangement and selection of material in databases is protected (Article 5). It provides authors of works with control over their rental and distribution in Articles 6 to 8 which they may not have under the Berne Convention alone. It also prohibits circumvention of technological measures for the protection of works (Article 11) and unauthorized modification of rights management information contained in works (Article 12). As of February 2016, the treaty has been ratified by 94 states.

### WIPO Copyright Treaty WCT

### World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty

Signed 20 December 1996

**Location** Geneva, Switzerland<sup>[1]</sup>

Effective 6 March 2002<sup>[1]</sup>

**Condition** 30 ratifications<sup>[1]</sup>

**Parties** 94[2]

**Depositary** Director-General of the World

Intellectual Property Organization<sup>[1]</sup>

Languages English, Arabic, Chinese, French,

Russian and Spanish<sup>[1]</sup>

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There have been a variety of criticisms of this treaty,

including that it is too broad (for example in its prohibition of circumvention of technical protection measures, even where such circumvention is used in the pursuit of legal and fair use rights) and that it applies a "one size fits all" standard to all signatory countries despite widely differing stages of economic development and knowledge industry.

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# **Implementation**

The WIPO Copyright Treaty is implemented in United States law by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). By Decision 2000/278/EC of 16 March 2000, the Council of the European Union approved the treaty on behalf of the European Community. European Union Directives which largely



cover the subject matter of the treaty are: Directive 91/250/EC creating copyright protection for software, Directive 96/9/EC on copyright protection for databases and Directive 2001/29/EC prohibiting devices for circumventing "technical protection measures" such as digital rights management.

### See also

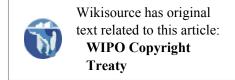
- List of parties to international copyright agreements
- Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs)
- Software patents under TRIPs Agreement
- WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)
- Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

### References

- 1. "Contracting Parties > WIPO Copyright Treaty (Total Contracting Parties : 93)". *World Intellectual Property Organization*. Retrieved 12 February 2012.
- 2. "WIPO Copyright Treaty". World Intellectual Property Organization. Retrieved 12 February 2012.

### External links and references

■ The full text of the WIPO Copyright Treaty (adopted in Geneva on December 20, 1996) (http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/treaties/text.jsp? file\_id=295166) (English) in the WIPO Lex database — official website of WIPO.



 Parties to the Treaty (http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ShowResults.jsp? lang=en&treaty id=16)

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Treaties of Jamaica | Treaties of Japan | Treaties of Jordan | Treaties of Kazakhstan
Treaties of Kyrgyzstan | Treaties of Latvia | Treaties of Liechtenstein | Treaties of Lithuania
Treaties of Luxembourg | Treaties of the Republic of Macedonia | Treaties of Madagascar
Treaties of Malaysia | Treaties of Mali | Treaties of Malta | Treaties of Mexico | Treaties of Moldova
Treaties of Mongolia | Treaties of Montenegro | Treaties of Morocco | Treaties of the Netherlands
Treaties of Nicaragua | Treaties of Oman | Treaties of Panama | Treaties of Paraguay
Treaties of Peru | Treaties of the Philippines | Treaties of Poland | Treaties of Portugal
Treaties of Qatar | Treaties of Romania | Treaties of Russia | Treaties of Saint Lucia
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Treaties of Slovenia | Treaties of South Korea | Treaties of Spain | Treaties of Sweden
Treaties of Switzerland | Treaties of Tajikistan | Treaties of Togo | Treaties of Trinidad and Tobago
Treaties of Turkey | Treaties of Ukraine | Treaties of the United Arab Emirates
Treaties of the United Kingdom | Treaties of the United States | Treaties of Uruguay
1996 in Switzerland | Treaties extended to Greenland | Treaties extended to the Faroe Islands
Treaties extended to Hong Kong
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