

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.

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

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Signed	20 December 1996
Location	Geneva, Switzerland ^[1]
Effective	6 March 2002 ^[1]
Condition	30 ratifications ^[1]
Parties	94 ^[2]
Depositary	Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization ^[1]
Languages	English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish ^[1]

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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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