

Savetz-Kevin-20050226123006

To: Julie L. Sigall  
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 02/26/2005

From: Kevin Savetz

Comment:

I run two web sites (atari magazines.com and atari archives.org) that preserve information about, and software for, classic computers from the 1970's and 1980's. Although these computers are obsolete, the information and software remain important from a historical perspective.

Because I have been unable to find the copyright holders, I am unable to make hundreds of computer programs and articles available on these web sites. In several cases, the works in question were copyrighted by a company that went out of business --- it is impossible to find out who, if anyone, retained the rights to those works.

In other cases, the company is still in business but no longer has records of owning those works. In other cases, the copyright holder has died and I have been unable to locate his descendants. But in most instances, the copyright holder is simply impossible to track down.

In the cases where I can find the copyright holder, the vast majority of the time they are thrilled to grant permission to republish their work. The orphaned works, however, must be left to languish.

These issues prevent me from making thousands of written articles and computer programs, which have little or no commercial value today, available on the web for historians to learn from, academics to study, and game players to enjoy.