

Roughan-Andrew-20050309203004

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

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From: Andrew Roughan

Comment:

My story involves publishing copyright ownership of software and associated manuals. I know the author of software who gave publishing rights to his software to a US company. The US company was taken over for one specific asset and the new owner has no interest in selling the software or enhancing it.

The author would like to make his source code to the software available to the public for use in future works.

The public would like to be able to use the software but are unable to purchase the software or the documentation.

Exactly who holds the publishing copyright is unclear as this may not have been explicitly discussed when the new owner took over the original publishing company.

There are no copies openly available for sale in the secondhand market.

There appears to be no legal way to distribute the software and the documentation even though it would be useful to do so.

I welcome any attempt to make the distribution of these type of works legal.