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

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From: Peter Kay

Comment:

I have on many occasions wanted to find the owners of copyrighted materials - specifically computer games. However, when some copyrighted materials are no longer economically viable for large-scale support, the owners will often merely toss the copyright in a back drawer and forget about it, making it much more difficult to get access to the material. Under the current system, no one will ever see those again, as companies involved wouldn't give up the copyright (there is no financial incentive to do so!) but at the same time, it's not worth selling it to others.

I would like orphaned and abandoned works to be released to the public, for the common use. The original investment for the copyright has either already paid off, or already been lost. In either case, there is no longer a compelling reason for a copyright on the material. If the public were given free access to such material, however, it can only help the common good - if it's truly worthless material, no one will care about it, but if it's valuable to a few, or can be incorporated into other projects, then it will have value to the public.

Please, release abandoned and orphaned works so they can actually be put to use!