

As an 'artist' in my own right, I am concerned that the orphaned works in any field will limit my own legal ability to create new works. I know that I cannot create in a vacuum, everything that I create is a reflection of my environment. I understand that artists need a form of incentive, but if new artists are unable (or think that they are unable) to legally build on the works of orphaned work, then we are all worse off for it.

I encourage you to publish some defined rules concerning how and when we can use an orphaned work. This is ever more a problem in fast moving fields such as software, as companies who pay the artists for the copyrights can quickly go out of business.

How does the artist/programmer know if he is legally allowed to reuse his own code at the next company if the defunct company owns the copyrights to his work?

David Creighton Samuels