

Copyright law is one of the branches of law that has become, with the development of the Internet, the center of interest for different types of stakeholders in the global information society. With the evolution of “Web 2.0”, sometimes called the “Participative Web”, represented by user-generated content (UGC), and also with the evolution of peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing and recently cyberlockers, the effectiveness of copyright protection online has become a problem where solutions can be found only with difficulty. Online copyright infringement is a complex phenomenon with a multiplicity of contributing factors. To see and understand these factors one must not only know and understand the territorial and international legal rules governing copyright, but also know and understand the online ecosystem in which copyright infringement takes place, which is impossible without knowing the history, evolution and technical background of the Internet. Only a complex knowledge and understanding of the whole issue enables one to see the full picture and ultimately reveals why the current copyright system sorely needs global review and reform.