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Copyright should be abolished. At the very least, copyright law needs severe reform along lines proposed by the Pirate Party of Sweden [1] and similar pirate parties in other countries. Perhaps an attribution right (right to be recognised as an author of a work, something logically independent from a power to restrict redistribution) could remain without causing severe difficulties, but in the main, copyright is questionable [2].

A copy of "Against Intellectual Monopoly" by Michele Boldrin and David K. Levine is attached as available freely in electronic form at [3]. While the book is not limited to discussion of copyright, it does cover various economic concerns regarding copyright.

Recent events in the Middle East and Africa have demonstrated that freedom of communication afforded by the internet is now vital. Copyright must not serve as an excuse for authoritarian internet censorship and control. Extremely costly (economically, never mind ethically) pervasive monitoring and filtering, as well as various absurdly draconian punishments, are depressingly regularly proposed ostensibly to support copyright enforcement. Of course, sometimes such a proposal might be a ploy to make broadcast-radio-like collective licensing schemes look more reasonable [4]. In any case, when copyright requires some sort of horrible information police state for continued enforcement, it is copyright law that must be changed, not the internet.

[1] <http://www.piratpartiet.se/international>

[2] <http://questioncopyright.org/about>

[3]

<http://levine.sscnet.ucla.edu/general/intellectual/againstfinal.htm>

[4]

<https://www.eff.org/wp/better-way-forward-voluntary-collective-licensing-music-file-sharing>