Protecting Intellectual Property: Rights or Creativity?

Max Weber Program and Global Governance: Internet Track

By: David K. Levine

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Copying Ideas

- Copying is a good economically productive activity.
- Where would we be without the monks who spent years copying manuscripts by hand?
- Where would be be without the printing press?
- The internet is all about copying.
Innovation

- Where would be be if Steve Jobs hadn’t “stolen” the idea of the graphical interface and computer mouse from Xerox? The idea of the ipod from the Diamond Rio? The idea of the iphone from the IBM Simon?
The iPad

Patents:
1888: U.S. Patent granted to Elisha Gray on electrical stylus device for capturing handwriting.
1915: U.S. Patent on handwriting recognition user interface with a stylus.
Monopoly Profits and Social Loss
What they Are Fighting Over

- Apple suing Samsung because Samsung’s 7” tablet looks “too” much like Apple’s 10” tablet
- So Samsung is suing Apple over the iPhone
- So that consumers can’t buy products
- And what small firm in their right mind wants to create a new product in this atmosphere: have you heard of Replay TV?
On the Copyright Front

- Meanwhile “Big Content” (U.S. music and movie producers) has a law before the U.S. Congress that will allow them to shut down any part of the web they like whenever they like.

- Of course they are powerless here in Europe.

- As you can prove by typing “http://www.piratebay.org/” into your browser.

- Luckily the are a very important part of the entertainment industry.

- 10% in fact.

- The other 90%? You guys. (“User created content.”)

- Numerous measures of this – value of cellphone networks versus television for example.
Because We Can’t Have Software with IP
The Benefits of IP Protection:
Killing the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg

![Total Factor Productivity Chart](chart.png)