

Legal considerations | Part C

The Copyright, Design and Patents Act protects work from being copied without permission. In this case works could include text, images, video, music and software.

If someone takes a photo or writes a program it's against the law for someone else to copy it.

People have been breaking copyright law long before the internet, but the internet has made it much easier to do so. File sharing websites and peer-to-peer networks have meant that large amounts of copyright material are being shared online much to the concern of the film and music industries.

There are, however, many more laws and regulations about computer and internet use. As uses of the internet develop the law is having to be applied in new ways. For example there have been cases of people being sued for libel because of posts they've made on Twitter. Also, it has to be kept in mind that the Internet spans the world and what is legal in the UK may not be legal in other countries. Some countries have very strict rules as to the sort of material people are allowed to access; some have strong restrictions on the use of encryption. This is an extremely complex area and people have had to become increasingly aware of their online actions.

In this video we have looked at laws related to computer use, specifically:

- The Data Protection Act
- The Computer Misuse Act
- The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act