

Creative Commons Ireland



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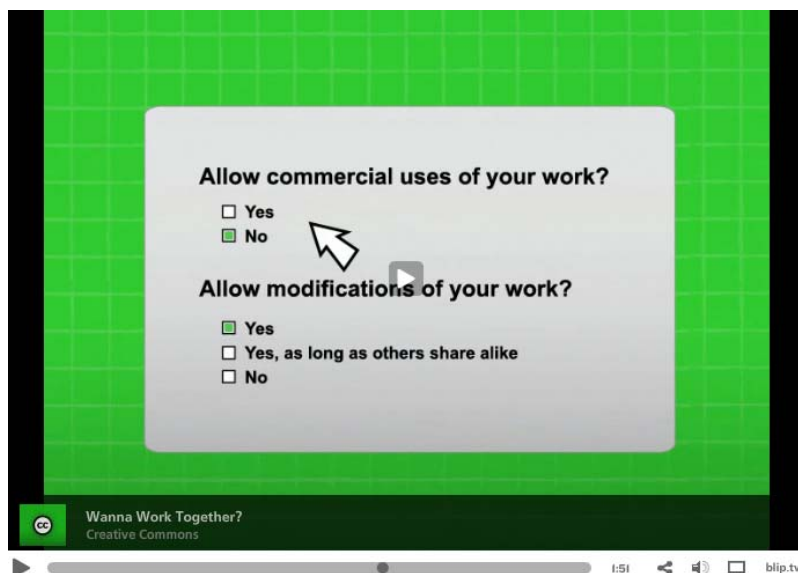
What is Creative Commons?

The Creative Commons movement works to offer creators a way to protect their works while encouraging certain uses of them, to declare "some rights reserved." This is a middle path between absolute copyright protection (all rights reserved) and pure public domain availability.

Creative Commons helps people retain copyright in creative works while licensing them as free for certain uses, on certain conditions. This applies to any creative works: scholarly articles, websites, music, film, photography, literature, courseware, etc.

Creative Commons was founded as a non-profit organisation in 2001 and is based in California. A key founder was Professor Lawrence Lessig, a well-known legal academic. It has a network of more than 100 affiliates working in 70 jurisdictions.

Naturally, there is a good website which explains all of this in detail: www.creativecommons.org. A useful short video on Creative Commons is available at <http://creativecommons.org/videos/wanna-work-together>:



Creative Commons is not against copyright. The licences help people to retain their copyright while allowing certain exceptions to it, upon certain conditions. In fact, the licences rely upon copyright for their enforcement.

A set of copyright licences is offered to the public free of charge. These licences will help people tell the world that their copyrighted works are free for re-use, but only on certain conditions. For example, if you don't mind people copying and distributing your online article so long as they give you credit, there's a licence that helps you say so. The licences do not give you the ability to restrict anything that is otherwise permitted by exceptions or limitations to copyright, including fair use or fair dealing, nor do they give you the ability to control anything which is not protected by copyright law, such as facts and ideas.

People can mix and match various licence preferences from a menu of options:

Attribution (BY) Permit others to copy, distribute, display, and perform the work and derivative works based upon it only if they give you credit. Attribution is now automatically included in all the "some rights reserved" licences (the core licences.)

Non-commercial (NC). Permit others to copy, distribute, display, and perform the work and derivative works based upon it only for non-commercial purposes. The "non-commercial use" condition applies only to others who use your work, not to you (the copyright holder). When other people use or trade or copy your work, they cannot do so for "monetary compensation or financial gain," unless they get your permission.

No Derivative Works (ND). Permit others to copy, distribute, display and perform only verbatim copies of the work, not derivative works based upon it. Examples of derivative works would be translations into other languages.

Share Alike (SA). Permit others to distribute derivative works only under a licence identical to the licence that governs your work.

Each licence has a visual symbol – see for example the symbol for an Attribution (BY) licence:



Each licence is accompanied by a human-readable commons deed, a lawyer-readable legal code and a machine-readable digital code. The licence chooser is available at <http://creativecommons.org/choose/>.

Creative Commons licences are used on various high profile websites, e.g.:

- Wikipedia – www.wikipedia.org
- Flickr – www.flickr.com
- YouTube – see <http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/27606>
- The White House – see www.whitehouse.gov/copyright
- Australia's Federal Parliament - www.aph.gov.au

For Case Studies of adoption of Creative Commons licences worldwide see http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Case_Studies.

There have been some cases in various jurisdictions in which the licences have been enforced – see http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Case_Law.

Creative Commons in Ireland

Creative Commons works with affiliates in various countries to adapt the international licences to the local legal environment. At University College Cork, Dr Darius Whelan and Dr Louise Crowley of the Faculty of Law are the Public Leads of Creative Commons in Ireland. We are working on adapting the licences to Irish legal conditions. This work is done in co-operation with Creative Commons, and there is a public e-mail discussion group for debates about the issues which arise. It is hoped that later in 2011 we will launch the Irish licences.

It's not just about drafting the licences, though. It's very useful for Creative Commons to have national partners who act as a central reference point for queries, explain the work of the organisation, and promote adoption of the licences.

There's a regular international Creative Commons conference, and a high level of international interaction by e-mail.

For more information on Creative Commons in Ireland see <http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Ireland>.