

## **Background**

It is said that copyrights promote the creation of culture and no one seems to question it. We do. We claim that this widely held belief is false and that our common culture is being suffocated by copyrights.

Apart from this, we can point to the horrible fact that on July 1st, 2005, our own government criminalized over a million citizens by changing copyright in a direction that points far away from public opinion.

We also claim that patents suffocate innovation. By creating a monopoly on knowledge, they stifle competition and prevent development, not to mention the ways they are being abused by patent holders.

Last but definitely not least is the question of privacy. Sweden is on course for a society where every citizen is being constantly supervised by the government. We intend to change that course.

## **Citizens' Rights**

The Swedish constitution guarantees every citizen access to all basic human rights such as freedom of speech, protection against oppression and respect for personal integrity. The EU data retention act tramples on all of these rights by demanding telephone companies and Internet providers store information about every single phone call, every e-mail, every visited website and position of every mobile phone. This has the effect of chilling free speech, curtailing the right of free association and violating article 12 of the UN declaration of Human Rights. Not bad for a day's work.

Government exists solely for the betterment of society and the protection of its citizens, the very same citizens who legitimize the government. A government who uses its powers against its own citizens is essentially illegitimate. All rule of law must be firmly anchored in the will of the people governed by it or we risk total state oppression.

*We aim to abolish the EU data retention act and strengthen the constitutional protection of all citizens' rights.*

## **The Duality of Immaterial Law**

Copyrights and patents were created to promote the betterment of society by encouraging creators and inventors. Today, the technological and economical development has stripped them of their use and instead they have become a choke point for our common culture. A few large actors in the marketplace use their state-sanctioned monopolies to dictate terms and set prices in a way that's decidedly not in our best interests. The original goals are no longer needed since the barriers of entry into creating culture and innovating technology have become so low that anyone can partake as a creator - the explosion of the Internet is testament to this force. There are more books, more content, more culture, more music, more articles, more innovations

and more movies than ever before. However, most of our cultural heritage is locked up by copyrights, left rotting in vaults, unpublished and out of print. We don't need to encourage creators any more, we need to set them free. We don't want to hinder innovation, strangle our minds and hold back our ideas any more. Ideas, music and knowledge can not, by their very nature, be exclusive property. When shared, they multiply. When given away, they enrich giver and receiver alike.

*The anti-competitive contracts that large parties use to control single creators are immoral.*

*The artificial limits imposed by strong distributors upon consumers' rights are illegal.*

We wish to promote a constructive discussion of the duality of IP law, describing the negative consequences for the little man. We wish to form fair rules for how producers' and creators' needs can be met while strengthening consumers' powers by adapting IP law to new technological breakthroughs and environmentally friendlier business models.

## **The Problems with Patents**

Patents were supposed to encourage the dissemination of knowledge and information by offering a time-limited protection for those who invent and invest in new inventions and methods. We believe it is only fair and natural that inventors and investors alike shall be able to gain remuneration for their work and ideas. However, patents today are mainly used to prevent innovation by hindering competitors. When created, the patent duration of 20 years was a third of the inventors' lifetime and still a reasonably short timespan compared to the general pace of development. Today, 20 years is nothing to a large corporation but an eternity for society to wait for innovation. This equation no longer computes.

Patents are used to block competition, big pharma stops developing countries from copying patented AIDS medicines, farmers get sued when a patented GM crop is accidentally spread on their fields, software patents cement the monopolies of big software houses, small inventors are dragged into courts for years to defend their patents and industry wants to patent your genes. We say it's time to put a stop to this madness.

*We aim to abolish patents.*

We wish to see a society where small and big parties alike can compete on equal and fair terms with weapons like quality, customer benefits and price instead of with patent attorneys. This will liberate resources they can use to innovate for the good of all.

## **The Importance of Trademarks**

Consumers have a rightful need to know what they buy and companies have a need to protect their trademarks in order to compete fairly. There is a strong public interest here that we wish to address. We aim to strengthen trademark protections between

companies somewhat while allowing more lenience in situations like consumer critic and satire. This is designed as an incentive for corporations to take good care of their customers and trademarks as well as strenghtening the consumer's power.

*We aim to both strengthen trademark protection and the consumers' right to criticize them.*

## **Free our culture**

We wish to strengthen the attribution rights of the authors. This right shall have no time limit. We wish to free our cultural heritage and enable a richer society by revoking all exclusive copyrights. It can be proven that exclusivity lessens the inherent value of immaterials such as ideas, thoughts, knowledge and music. A free dissemination of information and cultural expressions enrich us all, especially when combined with a technological revolution that enables free distribution at the speed of light. We wish to promote the creation of new and robust business models where creators and consumers can interact on equal terms for the enrichment of both.

*Ideas, knowledge and information are by nature non-exclusive and their common value lies in their being spread and shared.*

All copying of cultural expressions shall be expressly encouraged as long as the author is properly attributed, in particular through file-sharing. All restricting contracts as well as technical means and methods employed to prevent such copying shall be declared illegal for obstructing the natural right of our society to benefit from the sharing of culture and knowledge. No dissemination of cultural expressions, information and knowledge may be restricted or discouraged in any way. All future revisions of IP law must be based on the express will of the people and not intense lobbying from special interest groups.

*We aim to free our common cultural heritage and de-criminalize our citizens.*

## **Summary**

Current IP law leads directly to monopolies, a non-functional market, the suppression of democratic values and the obstruction of cultural expressions and innovation. The data retention act leads to restricted freedoms and a breakdown of the rule of law.

Demanding a correction of these wrongs is to demand justice, freedom and democracy for all citizens. We demand a revised and modern form of IP law firmly founded on the principle of enrichment of society. We demand a healthy climate for entrepreneurs. We demand a creative commons of knowledge and culture, promoting the enrichment of all. We demand better protection for citizens' rights to their own information.

We seek a clear mandate from the people to address the issues declared herein, but no others.