3C.1: Self-enforcing IP Law: Life after DRM

In 2015, it was highlighted that reform and likely costs need to inform the development of a new generation of computational representations of legal norms that realise the benefits of computational copyright protections without negative side effects.

This project aims to contribute to the development of regulatory state of affairs and the management of licenses and contracts by the rights holders and their legal representatives.

How can we translate empirical research such as that developed by CREATe into legislation with the lowest costs and the least disruption for industry, using advanced AI and natural language processing techniques?

How can we assist law firms identifying where law reform will disrupt current practices, or impact on “legacy” contracts or licenses using the same methods?

Proof of concept: we formalised the semantic connections in Estonian copyright law to show how changes in one part of the legal system can change aspects of copyright law in unforeseen ways, resulting in disruptive law reform and likely costs.

Joint project with the Computer Science Department of the Technical University Tallinn

Creating CoReO
Computer Assisted Copyright Reform Observatory

In the past, computational representations of copyright law were almost exclusively used for DRM technology applied within the consumer realm of the creative industry. The problems of this approach are well known - unhappy customers and widespread circumvention. This project explores more “creative” approaches to computational copyright law - instead of focussing on consumers, it aims to utilise “self-applying” law to reduce costs both for the legislative process and also for the management of licenses and contracts by the rights holders and their legal representatives.

1 - identify legislative norms

if [regulated state of affairs] obtains
then [legal consequence]

2 - process norm vocabulary connections

3 - identify (unexpected or non-obvious) connections between legislative norms

O Conetta, B Schafer: “LKIF in Commercial Legal Practice: Transaction Configuration from Eurobonds to Copyright” in Kevin Ashley (eds) Legal Knowledge and Information Systems - JURIX 2013 (IOS Press, 2013) pp. 63 - 72


Private Schools Act
Institutions of Professional Higher Education Act
University Act
University of Tartu Act