

CITED COPYRIGHT IN TRANSMITTED ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

The CITED project was based on the needs of the information industries in Europe to safeguard copyright material which is stored and transmitted in digital form. Such digitally stored information can be rapidly and accurately copied, with consequent risk of piracy and reluctance of copyright holders to commit their works to digital form.

CITED was set up with the following aspects in view:

— To study the practical copyright needs of users across the area of software, data/databases, electronic publishing, video/TV and audio recording, as well as the copyright and related laws relevant to the transmission and copying of digital material across national boundaries.

Progress: An in-depth user survey has been carried out in consultation with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the standardisation bodies with particular reference to the problems introduced by digital technology. The survey has covered information industry actors and national and international associations across the specified areas, and has given rise to a user requirements chapter in the appropriate deliverable. An extensive comparative study has been made of the current and developing legal situation in Europe in the specified areas, and a country/topic analysis has been instituted. It has further been ascertained that no national or international standards exist in relation to copyright of digital material, although de facto industry agreements are not unknown.

It may be mentioned conveniently at this point that in addition to the contacts established during the user requirements survey, discussions are continuing with a number of standards and industry bodies to keep them informed of the progress of the project.

The survey has demonstrated that copyright protection is still a crucial matter for the digital information industry, and that no broadly-based solution is currently available.

— To develop, on the basis of the user requirements specification, a model for the specification of technical means (the CITED Model) to safeguard copyright information in all the specified areas, in conformity with current legislation in the countries of the E.C.

Progress: CITED has specified a generic conceptual model, in entity-relationship form, for the protection of copyright material and the performance of a royalty accounting function. The CITED Model of copyright protection

serves to integrate the information actor chain as a whole, to protect both primary information, such as bibliographic and other catalogues, to include mass production processes from information masters, to be as transparent as possible with existing processes and to conform to E.C. copyright laws and the business environment of the information industry.

The CITED Model defines distributed components which will be transparently located at various levels, depending on the degree of protection required in any given situation, namely at the user level, the information system level and at the level of the distribution system and the information domain. The CITED Model has regard to the need to prevent deliberate or accidental infringements of copyright.

— To develop and test two demonstrators to embody the CITED generic model and to demonstrate the application of the model in specified environments within the information industry, using existing hardware.

Progress: Plans are well advanced for the demonstrators, which will embody distributed components as outlined in above. The first demonstrator is based on an on-line system for the supply of downloaded document images from digital store, and will demonstrate in practical form the control which can be expected over a user's ability to exploit those images. The first demonstrator will also demonstrate the capture and tracing of events in the CITED protected system.

The second demonstrator is being developed in the field of digital audio recording, for example by DAT, to study what is a very different technical and commercial context from that of the first demonstrator. The second demonstrator will consider the transmission of information on a physical carrier to the large and, in the copyright holder's terms, anonymous general public of an entertainment market.

In addition to the mounting of the two demonstrators, the results from which will be used to validate the CITED model, the letter will also be expressed in terms of guidelines derived not only from the experience of the demonstrators but also from a large number of implementation scenarios.

From the demonstrators and the guidelines, the partners will be able to provide both hardware and software solution to copyright protection in digital material in a wide range of different applications in the information industry.

The philosophy behind the CITED Model and the guidelines is that the overall objective is to facilitate the making of legitimate copies, without inconvenience to the end user, while obstructing the making of infringing copies of copyright works.

— To demonstrate, in a practical working environment, viable technical means to provide for control, policing and remuneration in respect of the use of

copyright material stored and transmitted in digital form.

Progress: Both demonstrators include as an integral component the means for ensuring that only legitimate copies can be made, and that remuneration for the making of those copies is effectively accounted for and distributed to the copyright holders of the corresponding information.

— A concern to see an expansion in the committal of information to digital storage, which is currently severely restricted by fears on the part of copyright owners that they will lose effective control over their intellectual property.

Progress: The user surveys carried out by the CITED project have made the information industry generally aware of the possibilities of copyright protection which the project is examining. The feedback from the users surveyed is valuable in testing the scope of the CITED concept, and will thus be able to be used directly or indirectly in the refinement and application of the CITED Model. These contacts and feedback will aid in the development of CITED systems which will gain the confidence of the information industry.

The way ahead: The main goal of the CITED Project is the demonstration of viable technical means to provide for control, policing and remuneration in respect of copyright material stored and transmitted in digital form. This goal is being met by the design of demonstrators which will incorporate technical means to achieve these functions. The model to be embodied by the technical means will be validated both by the demonstrators and by theoretical scenarios, and will then be used to develop guidelines for application across the information industry to implement CITED copyright protection. The position and experience of the CITED Project partners in the information industry is such that they will be able to promote the CITED Model and related guidelines effectively in the commercial environment.

In order to widen the scope of the CITED Model even more than at present within the CITED Project, and to promote its acceptance as strongly as possible, a Special Interest Group (SIG) will be set up to permit a direct dialogue with a greater number of actors in the information industry, political partners, and the relevant standardisation bodies.

DOMINIQUE DELOUIS
DAVID PUTERFLAM
Télesystèmes Nanterre