To: Jule L. Sigall
    Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Charles Talk

Comment:
Dear Sirs,

as a licensed owner of several software packages produced by companies who are now
defunct, non-existent and non-communicable, I fell that there is a great loss in
terms of the inabilityt o work with, improve or even repair necessary systems or
software.

I first experienced this with a package used for POS (Point-of-sale) software that
we had paid for maintenance on for four years. The company folded during that term
and even though source code was to be included within the original agreement, we
could not get same from anyone when it cam time to repair the system. The owner and
copyright holder simply went out of business without notice.

The same is true for many games, accounting systems, moitoring software, hardware
devices, and other items that relegate these items to the trash bins of society. The
items are made questionable - though not useless - because of this abandonment.
Without clear transfer of that knowledge product, the work is lost to the public,
though it might be perfectly useful.

The danger we face is that we are throwing the bay out with the bathwater, losing
content, information and knowledge that work elegantly and cleanly simply because
people are no longer willing or anble to claim clear ownership of abandoned works.

I urge you to consider the oprhan works issue carefully and allow these ideas to
continue to be expressed. Locking away histroy and culture is not in the best
interests of anyone.