

# The Story of CREATIVE COMMONS



## WHAT IS CREATIVE COMMONS?

A response to the tension between Copyright Law and the collaboration and sharing that takes place on the World Wide Web.

Creative Commons provides an easy way to share content on the Internet within the confines of the Copyright Law.

## HOW DID CREATIVE COMMONS BEGIN?

It started with some copyright legislation...

## IS CTEA CONSTITUTIONAL?

Does it align with the intent of Constitutional copyright to enable the sharing of creative work by providing a limited term of author control over it?

## SONNY BONO COPYRIGHT TERM EXTENSION ACT (CTEA)

Enacted in 1998, CTEA extended copyright terms to the life of the creator, plus 70 years.

# LAWRENCE LESSIG THOUGHT THAT CTEA WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL



## ELDRED V. ASHCROFT

Eventually argued in front of the Supreme Court, Lessig maintained that CTEA violated the Limited Term requirement in the Constitution.

He also argued that CTEA violated the First Amendment by not maintaining the balance between copyright and the freedom of speech.

Edred Lost. In a 7-2 vote, the Supreme Court decided that the Constitution required that Congress impose copyright term limits; however, the length of these limits are not specified.

## BIRTH OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Lessig and others decided to create the non-profit Creative Commons organization to advocate for people to share and remix content on the Web.

In 2002, Creative Commons released a set of free licences that allows creators to maintain their copyrights while also permitting others to share and remix their work.

## CREATIVE COMMONS TODAY

Creative Commons licenses are used in over 1.4 billion works online on 9 million websites. Creative Commons licenses are also found on major online platforms, such as Flickr, Wikipedia and YouTube.

What an accomplishment!



## GET INVOLVED!

Activists from around the world have created a global coalition of people working for copyright reform and for creating policy for more open access to information.

The CC Global Network includes activists, creators, educators and users advocating for Creative Commons worldwide. These volunteers write computer code, organize events and share content.

More information about the CC Global Network is at: <https://network.creativecommons.org/>

