



# INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT BASICS



Copyright is a creation of law in each country, and therefore there is no such thing as international copyright law.

However, 180 countries have ratified a treaty known as the **Berne Convention** which sets minimum standards of copyright protection.



According to Berne and applicable copyright law, protection exists automatically after a **qualifying work is created and "fixed"**, which means that it is captured in a way that it can be communicated to others. For example, a work is fixed when it is written down or recorded.

Copyright in most countries lasts for the life of the author and until 31 December of the year 70 years after their death.



Copyright treaties, in addition to Berne, are also in place:

**WIPO COPYRIGHT TREATY** makes it clear that computer programs and databases are protected by copyright.

**TRIPS** says that national laws have to make the effective enforcement of IP rights possible, and describes in detail how enforcement should be addressed.