

Abstract

**Emergence of 3D Printer and Intellectual Property
- based on Copyright, Design, Trademark -**

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3D printing technology is a kind of new technology that might bring new industrial innovation. In the near future prosumer era, in which an individual has a high-quality and unexpensive 3D printer and can produce articles that he himself wants, will come. 3D printing will bring many advantages to our society, however, includes legal matters including intellectual property. An individual will welcome the era of prosumer, but manufacturers are afraid of being survival, and would even stigmatize 3D printers as piracy machines. In addition, a company might suffer fatal blow, when 3D data to be protected as trade secret in the company are disclosed on the internet. Such problems will be much more serious when the era comes in which mechanical resolution of 3D printer will be much better, its price will be reduced, and so 3D printer will be spreaded into each household. In particular, as to copyright, it will have to be further discussed on whether an act to reproduce and use an article using 3D printer at home should be still exempted from legal responsibilities or not, and that joint ownership, distribution, reproduction and transmission of 3D data on the internet are lawful and so on. The further study on how to preemptively response to these legal matters will be needed.

Keywords

3D printer, Copyright, 3D data, Private use, Design, Unfair Competition Act

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