

Abstract**A Study on Creativity of Font Files as a Computer Program**

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Font files have been protected as computer program works for over 20 years. Although it was upheld by the Supreme Court, the ruling of the Supreme Court, which recognized font files as computer program works, has been criticized. It should be noted that such criticism came mainly from the software & IT industry, which mainly produces computer program works. According to Korea Copyright Act, a computer program work must be: ① in order to bring about a certain result, ② to be used in information processing capabilities such as a computer, ③ directly or indirectly, ④ a set of statements or instructions. They have disapproved of the ruling on the ground that fonts are simple data, not a set of statements or instructions.

When the era of letterpress was gone and the phototypesetting started developed, we had used 'Gullim', which is based on Japanese font 'Naru', for a long time in that we didn't have any typeface for a phototypesetter. Letters play an important role in conveying thoughts and meanings. It's hard to bear the fact that we need to use typefaces based on the other countries', or to buy typefaces of other countries to talk about our thoughts and meanings.

Even if it was necessary to protect the Korean typeface industry, it is somewhat questionable that it must be protected by Copyright Act or as a computer program work. Font files are widely used in people's daily life nowadays. Therefore, the strong protection for font files might cause lots of copyright problems in daily life.

The recent Supreme Court's ruling is interesting since it didn't comply with precedent in regard to font copyright infringement. Of course, the ruling did not lead to such a big change that deny the creative nature of the font file

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as a computer program work. It is, however, certainly different from the past in which they admitted that the horizontal and vertical location values do not overlap with each other in a wide space of 1,000 pixels and recognized creative nature in the act of setting and moving the horizontal and vertical location values - to protect the font industry.

In this study, scopes the various problems that arise from the policy of separating and protecting fonts and font files. In particular, it diagnoses problems that occur when protecting font files with computer program works. Afterward, checks if the font file that has been protected as a computer program work so far has met the requirements of the computer program work. It also examines whether creativity can be recognized even if such requirements are met. The conclusion suggests a direction for the future protection policy on typefaces.

Keywords

Font, Typeface, Originality, Creativity, Copyright, Computer Program, Software