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Digital Rights FAQ

1. Are rights retroactive or do they take effect on 11/14/2003?
2. Does Linden Lab have any rights to our work?
3. How do I protect my own work?
4. What if there is a dispute between me and another SL member regarding content ownership?
5. What if Linden Lab is bought by another company, do they get my content without compensating me?

1. Are rights retroactive or do they take effect on 11/14/2003?

The rights start on 11/14/2003. People have done what they've done up to now based on an agreed-upon set of rules, and it wouldn't be fair to change those rules after the fact. For example, Linden Lab can't tell people who have used other people's creations that they are now potentially liable in the real world for copyright infringement for those past actions, where before their greatest risk was having an in-game dispute or a dispute with Linden.

2. Does Linden Lab have any rights to our work?

Yes, but they are very limited. As a condition of participation, users grant Linden certain limited licenses to use their creations in marketing and promotion of the service, and for various technical and support purposes in connection with the service. Linden does not take any ownership interest in the users' creations.

3. How do I protect my own work?

Linden cannot give you legal advice. Just as with any other place in the real world, you are responsible for understanding the laws relating to intellectual property and determining your best course of action. A good place to start is by reviewing the information on the United States Copyright Office web site at <http://web.archive.org/web/20040308041913/http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/>.

4. What if there is a dispute between me and another SL member regarding content ownership?

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5. What if Linden Lab is bought by another company, do they get my content without compensating me?

If Linden were acquired by a third party, Linden could only pass on to that party those rights that Linden already had for itself. Therefore, if Linden does not own your content, it cannot give ownership of your content to anyone else. It could, however, pass along the limited licenses referred to above.