

Define Intellectual Property (IP). Why protecting intellectual property on the web is difficult?

Intellectual property:

Intellectual property includes all the tangible and intangible goods of a person's mind. For example, land or a laptop, or a pen, are instances of property that exist in the real world. You can touch and feel them, they are tangible, you can feel them, there are borders to it, there is no possible dispute with regard to where the contours of these properties are. The land is defined by its boundaries, a pen is an object that exists in time and space. So, we do not have problems in ascertaining the boundaries of this property whereas, when we come to IP, we do have certain issues as to understanding the outer limits or the boundaries or the private space of the IP. Now, IP specifically refers to things that emanate from human creative labor. IP manifests itself in various forms. For instance, if you look at an invention, an invention is an IP that can be protected by a patent, which is an intellectual property right. A literary work, a book, or the work that is written or expressed in words could be an IP that can be protected by IP rights that is copyright. So, there is a distant distinction between IP or the rights of property that manifest in certain creations made by human beings, and the right that protects these manifestations. So, IP is any result of any individual intellect which is distinctive or original and has little worth in the marketplace. In the context of e-business, the IP consists of digital images, digital files, websites.

Online business models: Protecting this on the web is difficult because

- It is simple and reasonably priced to copy and distribute digitized information.
- Furthermore, it is very difficult to monitor who is using intellectual property and how.

Information stored on a computer (e.g., software data, trade secrets, confidential personal information) is generally much more valuable than computer hardware. In order to protect this information, many of the concepts in the practice of computer law involve law, which includes copyright, patents, and trademarks.