

March 20

- Last week: technical preference of the internet is “store and forward”
  - Copying and tracking are the net
    - Law & Tenner
- This week: digital commons in tutorial
- capitalism, enclosure and material property
- technology and culture interweaving again

The material Commons

- no one can lay claim to them, but everyone has access to it
  - language
  - privatized commons – for the public good
    - not supposed to be exclusive, slightly more limited
    - provided without the idea of profit
    - street lights, city parks
- inclusive
  - if commodified, they *cease* to be commons
- regulated to ensure access

Material enclosure and private property

- accumulation by dispossession
- colonialism
- export-only economy
- Today:
  - Water and food
- Profit from the public commons

Capitalism – functions as a system that’s based on private property

- Private property. Private or corporate ownership. Competition.

- Competition within scarcity (causes profit)
  - Drives innovation
- Scarcity of labour (a problem)
  - Taxes force people to work for wages
- Cartel: artificial scarcity
- Scarcity of demand
- Competition driving innovation
- Innovation is also a threat
- Digital economy (innovation)
  - Value of commodity = zero (threat)
- Deep Inequality
- Search for new ways to commodify (base on tyranny of competition)
- May copy *idea*; not *form* of expression
- *Automatic* protection for *any* (not even published, not even registered) word + automatic renewal
- Automatic regulation of all *forms*
  - In material world you can only make a limited number of copies
- Problem: Digital has no original
  - Unlimited *immaterial* copies
- Digital copyright laws throw regular ones into turmoil
- *Fixity*
- 1985: Canadian copyright laws
  - any *material* form
- 2009: *fixation* or ownership now doesn't have to be material
- All digital is a copy
- Regulation of ideas *and* form
- Regulate *use* not copies

- Not *copy* control... regulation of *use*
- E.U.L.A.E.O.S – end user license agreement terms of service
  - Rationalization
  - Technocratic solution
- D.R.M. – Digital Rights Management
  - Regulation of use
- Proprietary software
  - Control through centralization
- Closed-source \*\* What Lessick is talking about in the article
  - Vs open-sourced
  - Modifiable source code is key for *open-source* software

Language (or culture) = remix

- \*\*Lessick feels copyright law is antiquated, needs updating.
- William Burroughs – remix is communication/language
  - Cut-up method
- Appropriation, mimicry