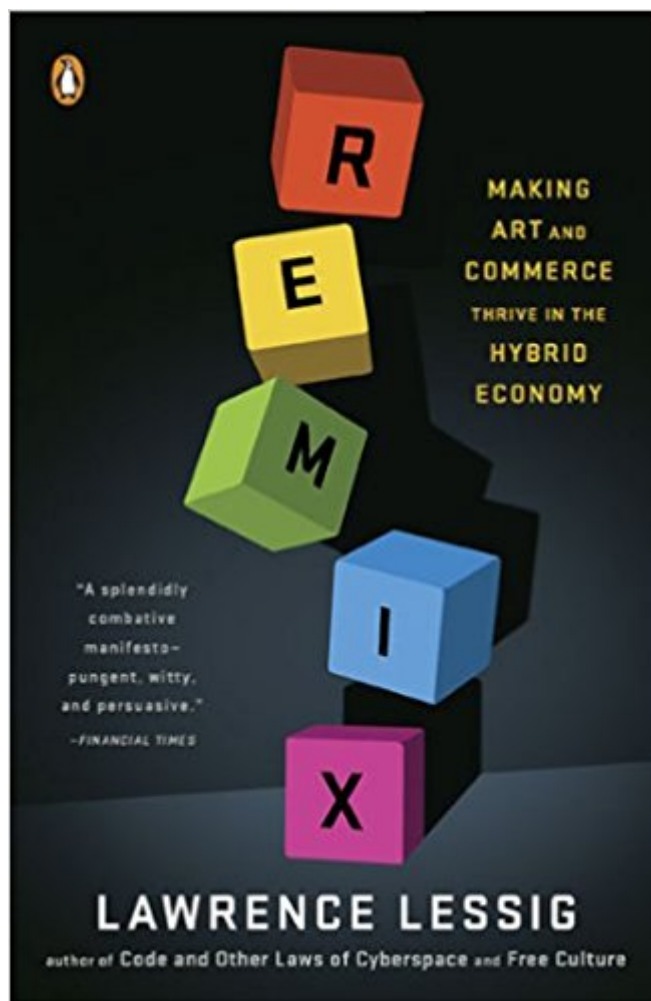


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# Remix: Making Art And Commerce Thrive In The Hybrid Economy



## Synopsis

The reigning authority on intellectual property in the Internet age, Lawrence Lessig spotlights the newest and possibly the most harmful culture war—a war waged against those who create and consume art. America's copyright laws have ceased to perform their original, beneficial role: protecting artists' creations while allowing them to build on previous creative works. In fact, our system now criminalizes those very actions. *Remix* is an urgent, eloquent plea to end a war that harms every intrepid, creative user of new technologies. It also offers an inspiring vision of the postwar world where enormous opportunities await those who view art as a resource to be shared openly rather than a commodity to be hoarded.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lawrence Lessig is a professor at Stanford Law School and the founder of the Stanford Center for Internet and Society. The author of *The Future of Ideas* and *Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace*, he is the chair of the Creative Commons project. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Cambridge University, and Yale Law School, he has clerked for Judge Richard Posner of the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals and Judge Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Lawrence Lessig is a prophet for the Internet age. . . . A splendidly combative manifesto-pungent, witty and persuasive." -Financial Times" Once dubbed a 'philosopher king of Internet law,' [Lessig] writes with a unique mix of legal expertise, historic facts, and cultural curiosity. . . . The result is a

wealth of interesting examples and theories on how and why digital technology and copyright law can promote professional and amateur art." -Time

Lessig is an authority and thought leader in open-source community. I picked the book because of his reputation. It doesn't disappoint. Fast read, easily understandable, real-life examples. Great read on the changes Lessig argues are necessary to intellectual property law to bring it into the 21st century. His arguments are somewhat loosely made; I guess to keep the book readable by a general audience and short. Even if you agree with Lessig's general position, I found, for me, he dedicated inadequate space to cover the underlying legal, cultural and historical bases. Lessig chooses instead a more populist approach. With well-argued examples he'll make a convert of you, especially if your kid is recording sampled music and putting it out there for consumption by her peers. Good Copy Bad Copy (YouTube) is a good supplement to some of Lessig's points in this book - if you want to quickly digest the remix culture. Dive deep with another book: Adrian Johns' Piracy: The Intellectual Property Wars from Gutenberg to Gates - for a history and a more impartial treatise on intellectual property and what copyright reform means.

Read this book if you seek a conceptual structure and a well reasoned perspective on what's happening (or should be happening) around copyright law and the practical application of it in this digital age. Very well done. Having read this book its clear that improvements in copyright law could improve our world and advance our culture. I didn't start this book with such an understanding. However. Don't read this book if you're seeking economic arguments and business models for businesses centered on intellectual property. More generally, I would advocate for a revised edition. Two reasons. First, as I read it, I wondered if we're really heading towards Lessig's vision and if there are more recent waypoints that illuminate progress towards (or away) from his vision. Second reason: Lessig appears to be a political person. Fine. But he unfortunately links his advocacy in the final chapter to the rather dynamic geopolitical lessons of a "failure" in Iraq ... and to our environmental(global warming) tipping point. His argument to paraphrase is that media conglomerates cannot win the copyright/sharing war for the same reason we cannot win in Iraq. Oooops. With the benefit of time it would appear that Iraq has been won using the wise application of power. So it would therefore it follow's that Warner Brothers (and the media giants will win too with their wise application of market power)? You can't make a conclusive argument and then tie it to an inconclusive parallel. His political analogies have diminished his own argument. Embarrassing. Time for a revision. (And time for the author to spend less time with politico ideologues.)But. That

said. Lessig's argument around his core subject is huge and redefining and this is a worthwhile read.

The amazing thing about this book is that Lessig is getting at something bigger than just the parental worries of children sharing music and videos through the internet. He is pointing out the very serious question of where our culture is now heading toward. The World Wide Web and digital technologies has changed its course, and we now need to begin an open discussion of how we, as a community of artists, lawmakers, corporations, and the viewing (and hopefully remixing) public, would like to move forward in the 21st Century. Lessig makes an excellent contribution to this primal, immediate, and ultimately eternal conversation in "Remix".

Lawrence Lessig is a true prophet of communication. Not only is he an excellent historian, but his commentary of present innovation in communication leads to prescient insight. He is clearly a genius and an excellent writer. Stars for days!

If you liked Free Culture but you want to see how it works in practice this is the book for you. If you think Free Culture was a bunch of hippie-dippy commie talk this is also a good book for you. It has great examples of companies that thrive with new business models that accommodate to the new technological reality as well as a general description of how this all came about.

As usual, Lessig presents a convincing, easy-to-understand look at the importance of rewriting our copyright laws. His focus here is to stop making teens automatically into criminals as they "remix" their culture into their own forms of art. It's true: copyright law is strangling amateur creativity, and Lessig presents a number of ways in which the law could be rewritten in such a way that the original artist (and corporation who owns the IP) and the amateur can be protected.

The only weakness in this book is that it wasn't written yesterday. Its arguments are really strong. The specific examples are very interesting. It is more developed than his lectures on the topic. I am interested to know what has changed since it was published.

I like the accessibility of the information about intellectual property presented here. It's an interesting and educational read. I hope he writes an updated version, since laws and copyright cases are continuing to move forward.

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