The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a massive trade agreement between 12 countries: United States, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, and Brunei.

It covers a wide range of issues, including tariffs on goods, and patent rules on medicines—but it also contains rules that threaten our rights online and over our digital devices.

Weak Usage Rights Coupled with Tougher Enforcement

The deal carries a host of heavy-handed enforcement rules that could lead to prison sentences, huge fines, and the destruction of devices over claims of copyright violation. At the same time, TPP lacks strong protections for using or modifying works for legal purposes, such as education, research, accessibility, and creating remixes.

The TPP makes it a crime to get around digital rights management (DRM) or “digital locks.” This means it would become or remain illegal to modify your own device, or to free your content, even for fair uses or other non-infringing purposes.

Corporate lobbyists readily had access to the draft text while it was negotiated in secret for over seven years. Hollywood dedicated massive lobbying resources to influence the agreement’s copyright rules. This meant everyone else’s rights were never taken seriously.

Copyright is already too long. The TPP will expand the length by 20 years for six countries and threatens to lock the others from shortening their terms.

The most concerning provisions include copyright rules that restrict our rights to:

1. Work Usage Rights Coupled with Tougher Enforcement
2. Excessive Copyright Terms Keep Decades of Culture Locked Up
3. Ban on Modifying Your Own Device

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Take Action (United States):
eff.org/notpp

Learn more:
eff.org/tpp

The TPP makes it a crime to get around digital rights management (DRM), which would influence the agreement’s copyright code. This means our own rights to share works freely were never taken seriously.

On one of the world’s really odd backrooms, a few laws are in the works to give us a mere 70 years to enjoy culture. If you care, please take action to influence the agreement’s copyright code. This means our own rights to share works freely were never taken seriously.