

Lawrence Lessig

Quotes

*People, Law, Creativity, Thinking, Ideas, Believe, Past, Mean, Culture,
Government, Technology, Long, Principles, Creative, Choices, Writing, Political,
Doe, Artist, War*

The danger in media concentration comes not from the concentration, but instead from the feudalism that this concentration, tied to the change in copyright, produces.

~Lawrence Lessig

The war against illegal file-sharing is like the church's age-old war against masturbation. It's a war you just can't win.

~Lawrence Lessig

Creation always involves building upon something else. There is no art that doesn't reuse. And there will be less art if every reuse is taxed by the appropriator.

~Lawrence Lessig

Before the monopoly should be permitted, there must be reason to believe it will do some good - for society, and not just for monopoly holders.

~Lawrence Lessig

Monopoly controls have been the exception in free societies; they have been the rule in closed societies.

~Lawrence Lessig

We are on the cusp of this time where I can say, "I speak as a citizen of the world" without others saying, "God, what a nut."

~Lawrence Lessig

If the Internet teaches us anything, it is that great value comes from leaving core resources in a commons, where they're free for people to build upon as they see fit.

~Lawrence Lessig

A culture without property, or in which creators can't get paid, is anarchy, not freedom.

~Lawrence Lessig

Of all the creative work produced by humans anywhere, a tiny fraction has continuing commercial value. For that tiny fraction, the copyright is a crucially important legal device.

~Lawrence Lessig

All around us are the consequences of the most significant technological, and hence cultural, revolution in generations.

~Lawrence Lessig

Technology means you can now do amazing things easily; but you couldn't easily do them legally.

~Lawrence Lessig

In these times, the hardest task for social or political activists is to find a way to get people to wonder again about what we all believe is true. The challenge is to sow doubt.

~Lawrence Lessig

Remember the refrain: We always build on the past; the past always tries to stop us. Freedom is about stopping the past, but we have lost that ideal.

~Lawrence Lessig

Power runs with ideas that only the crazy would draw into doubt.

~Lawrence Lessig

By the time Apple's Macintosh operating system finally falls into the public domain, there will be no machine that could possibly run it. The term of copyright for software is effectively unlimited.

~Lawrence Lessig

Freedom is about stopping the past.

~Lawrence Lessig

Copyrights have not expired, and will not expire, so long as Congress is free to be bought to extend them again.

~Lawrence Lessig

We always build on the past; the past always tries to stop us.

~Lawrence Lessig

Now that copyrights can be just about a century long, the inability to know what is protected and what is not protected becomes a huge and obvious burden on the creative process.

~Lawrence Lessig

Americans have been selling this view around the world: that progress comes from perfect protection of intellectual property.

~Lawrence Lessig

A free culture is not a culture without property; it is not a culture in which artists don't get paid.

~Lawrence Lessig

Some may not like the Constitution's requirements, but that doesn't make the Constitution a pirate's charter.

~Lawrence Lessig

While the creative works from the 16th century can still be accessed and used by others, the data in some software programs from the 1990s is already inaccessible.

~Lawrence Lessig

A time is marked not so much by ideas that are argued about as by ideas that are taken for granted. The character of an era hangs upon what needs no defense.

~Lawrence Lessig

When government disappears, its not as if paradise will take its place.
When governments are gone, other interests will take their place.

~Lawrence Lessig

[Congress] and their cronies secure more than one hundred billion dollars in corporate welfare

~Lawrence Lessig

Winner take all does not exist in the Constitution. It's a restriction imposed on the electors by the states.

~Lawrence Lessig

In a time of polarized politics there's one thing that more than ninety percent of Americans agree on, that our government is broken, and broken because of the money in politics.

~Lawrence Lessig

I spend as little time with lawmakers as possible. Many are great. And more than you expect want real change. But they're not going to do anything till we, the outsiders, force them to adopt it.

~Lawrence Lessig

I don't support direct democracy because I want a life, and that means I want to select people who work for me who do that sort of work for me.

~Lawrence Lessig

My work about corruption is to get people to see it less as a moral issue (right/wrong) and more as an economic issue (economies of influence and their effect).

~Lawrence Lessig

We ought to be respecting the principle of equality.

~Lawrence Lessig

The popular choice, by more than 2 million votes, is a completely qualified candidate for president.

~Lawrence Lessig

There's no reason for the electors to overrule the popular choice.

~Lawrence Lessig

I'm focused on solving the problem that would make it plausible for gov't to get back to solving real problems.

~Lawrence Lessig

There is still the illusion that if we could declare corporations are not people or that money is not speech, all would be solved. Regardless of the good in those ideas, it wouldn't.

~Lawrence Lessig

Change the way we fund campaigns. Until we do, Wall Street will always be able to blackmail the Dems and GOP to giving them what Wall Street wants.

~Lawrence Lessig

I'm pushing for citizen equality not because of some moral idea, but because this is the essential way to crack the corruption that now makes it so Washington can't work.

~Lawrence Lessig

"Writing" is the Latin of our times. The modern language of the people is video and sound.

~Lawrence Lessig

Money corrupts the process of reasoning.

~Lawrence Lessig

For however much the state may gain by not having to fund roads on its own, society would lose in aggregate if the open commons of transportation were lost.

~Lawrence Lessig

All of the great Disney works took works that were in the public domain and remixed them.

~Lawrence Lessig

Permission from the government is an expensive commodity. New ideas rarely have this kind of support. Old ideas often have deep legislative connections to defend them against the new.

~Lawrence Lessig

Every generation welcomes the pirates from the last.

~Lawrence Lessig

Politics is that rare sport where the amateur contest is actually more interesting than the professional.

~Lawrence Lessig

So uncritically do we accept the idea of property in culture that we don't even question when the control of that property removes our ability, as a people, to develop our culture democratically.

~Lawrence Lessig

My claim is that we should focus on the values of liberty... If there is not government to insist on those values, then who? ... The single unifying force should be that we govern ourselves.

~Lawrence Lessig

Legislation needs a better reason than that lawyers like it, and that America does it.

~Lawrence Lessig

Show me why your regulation of culture is needed. Show me how it does good. And until you can show me both, keep your lawyers away.

~Lawrence Lessig

You and I both know that as long as our representatives are held hostage to their funders - and their funders are not all of us - our system will not work

~Lawrence Lessig

Companies will often use the legal system to scare people away from attacking them. But we all should be free to make critical statements about anybody, unless those statements are malicious.

~Lawrence Lessig

There is nothing more dangerous than a government of the many controlled by the few.

~Lawrence Lessig

One great feature of modern society is the institutionalized respect we give to processes designed to destroy the past.

~Lawrence Lessig

Creativity is enhanced by less-than-perfect control over what content is on the network.

~Lawrence Lessig

While appropriation art is critical to art, it's an ambiguous art form in the world of the Supreme Court.

~Lawrence Lessig

The popular choice is not elected as president.

~Lawrence Lessig

Everybody's vote should count equally in the United States.

~Lawrence Lessig

Why should it be that just when technology is most encouraging of creativity, the law should be most restrictive?

~Lawrence Lessig

If the law imposed the death penalty for parking tickets, we'd not only have fewer parking tickets, we'd also have much less driving.

~Lawrence Lessig

I advocate for protecting the liberty of the net, and securing privacy. I argue against people who believe both are somehow given automatically. They're not.

~Lawrence Lessig

I'm a lawyer. I make lawyers for a living.

~Lawrence Lessig

Overregulation corrupts citizens and weakens the rule of law.

~Lawrence Lessig

A free culture has been our past, but it will only be our future if we change the path we are on right now.

~Lawrence Lessig

Law and technology produce, together, a kind of regulation of creativity we've not seen before.

~Lawrence Lessig

Code plus law is combining to reduce rights consumers used to have.

~Lawrence Lessig

So uncritically do we accept the idea of property in ideas that we don't even notice how monstrous it is to deny ideas to a people who are

dying without them.

~Lawrence Lessig

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