Sharing Creative Works
an illustrated primer
by Alex Roberts, Rebecca Rojer, & Jon Phillips
Credits
• Art by Alex Roberts & Rebecca Rojer
• Text by Rebecca Rojer, Jon Phillips & Alex Roberts
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http://wiki.creativecommons.org/sharing_creative_works
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When you draw a picture, only one copy exists. You can keep that copy, or give it to a friend, or maybe even sell it.
But when you draw a picture on your computer, it is possible to create a perfect copy of that picture. You can keep your picture and give a copy to your friend and even sell a copy, if you like.
Once someone has one copy of your picture, they have the ability to make more exact copies and then share them. They also have the ability to make changes to your picture, and share that. But what if you don't want them to?
This is where the law comes in. Although anyone with a computer has the ability to share or change your creation, because of copyright law, they are not allowed to do so without your permission.*

*Though, depending on where you live, there may be specific exceptions to this rule. In the United States, this is called "Fair Use."
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