

CYBERLEX



Email and copyright

Recent reporting by the media has seen an interest in the copyright status of emails rear its somewhat dazed and confused head. Concerns were raised over whether the forwarding of an email would be an infringement of copyright.

Arguably, the forwarding of an email has always had the potential to constitute an infringement of copyright (under the Copyright Act 1968).

The Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Act 2000 is an attempt to update the law of copyright in Australia relating to the internet and other technologies. Whether or not the Act is successful remains to be seen, but the public is none the wiser following statements that forwarding an email is now an infringement, but that it is unlikely to breach copyright laws because emails are unlikely to be original works subject to protection. This is an oversimplification of an issue that is complex and will vary with each situation.

Email is now so ingrained into our everyday lives (at least working) everyone should understand the legal implications of sending, receiving and forwarding email. An organisations' email policy is an essential part of any risk management strategy and should be reviewed to ensure that it clearly deals with the issues. I note that most disclaimers that are attached to email do not appear to deal with the issue of copyright, but rather focus on unauthorised receipt. The following article is published on the Gilbert & Tobin net site and provides a concise look at the recent issue regarding the legal implications inherent in the forwarding of emails: "Is Forwarding An Email An Infringement Of Copyright: Impact Of The Digital Agenda Act On E-mail"

(<http://www.gilbertandtobin.com.au/pubs/forwardinganemail.html>)

The Darwin to Alice Railway

Net address: <http://www.nt.gov.au/railway/>

Financial close has occurred. This NT Government site provides information on the project, the local involvement, regional benefits and more. There are also some interesting facts, for example, the 1410 kilometer railway will use approximately 2.3 million sleepers. The Local Industry Participation Plan states that 70% of the value of construction will be local employment and goods sourced from local industry. To tender for work in relation to the construction of the railway are advised to register with the NT Industry Search and Opportunities office. An online registration facility is available on the site.

Supreme Court of the Northern Territory

Net address: <http://www.nt.gov.au/ntsc/>

The Supreme Court of the Northern Territory net site has a balance of historical and practical information to suit the casual visitor or the legal professional. I was surprised and pleased to find the transcript of the Applications for Admission heard on 6 February 2001 in the media release section of the site (congratulations to the successful applicants). Another aspect of the site that capture my attention was the colour coded Supreme Court Calendar for 2001.

While there are too many aspects of the site to describe here, from dialing court lists to historical references to contact details, there is one feature I do want to mention: the 'virtual tour'. The virtual tour contains images of different parts of the Supreme Court building from the foyer to the jury room to actual court rooms. What is significant is that the images can be manipulated. Visitors to the site can take a 360 degree look at the different locations, including the ability to zoom in and out. You will require a Java enabled browser to use this feature (most browsers now have this feature by default).

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Where the Waters Meet

A conference on
community solutions for
indigenous youth justice
1 - 3 June 2001

The Northern Territory
Aboriginal Justice Advocacy
Committee (NT AJAC) is
holding a conference to look at
community solutions for
indigenous solutions for
indigenous youth justice.

Conference presenters will include:

- Traditional elders from remote communities
- Aboriginal representatives talking about programs in their communities
- Young Aboriginal people telling their stories through song and performance
- Leading youth justice academics and politicians
- Youth and legal service providers

The location

Mandorah is a secluded location on Cox Peninsula — either a 90 minute drive or 15 minute ferry ride from Darwin. The conference will be held at the Mandorah Beachside Hotel. Accommodation options include cabins on site, camping (bring a swag) or a range of hotel alternatives a ferry ride away.

Extra conference activities

There will be a range of evening activities, will including fireside barbeques and entertainment. There are also hopes for hunting and fishing trips organised by the local Aboriginal community.

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