

The Danger of Ebooks

In an age where business dominates our governments and writes our laws, every technological advance offers business an opportunity to impose new restrictions on the public. Technologies that could have empowered us are used to chain us instead.

With printed books,

- You can buy one with cash, anonymously.
- Then you own it.
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- The format is known, and no proprietary technology is needed to read the book.
- You have the right to give, lend or sell the book to another.
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Contrast that with Amazon ebooks (fairly typical):

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- Amazon requires the user to accept a restrictive license on use of the ebook.
- The format is secret and only proprietary user-restricting software lawfully supports it.
- The Kindle tells Amazon what page the user is reading, plus any notes the user enters.
- An ersatz “lending” is allowed for some books, for a limited time, but only by specifying by name another user of the same system. No giving or selling.
- Copying the ebook is blocked by Digital Restrictions Management .
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