

Bashayer ALGHANIM: The scope of copyright law protection of computer programs in private international law: study on Kuwait and the UK.

In contrast to the rapid development of copyright protection in the UK, Kuwait has developed little in this area. Copyright legislation was slower in coming and Kuwait did not enact a copyright law until 1999 with the Kuwaiti Decree Law No 64/1999 on the protection of author's rights. This law is the first in the history of Kuwait to explicitly protect the works of authors and is modelled on international standards.

The UK has revised its copyright law to include computer programs and Kuwait has just begun to consider including the legal protection of computer programs in Law No 64/1999. The serious concern about the new law is whether the rules offer a solution to the rampant piracy and infringement of programs in Kuwait.

The aim of this research is to increase understanding of the copyright protection of computer programs by analysing UK law, which represents the common law system, and Kuwaiti law, which represents the civil law system. Additionally, it aims to provide a critical analysis of the theoretical and practical issues in the current Kuwaiti Law No 64/1999 with regard to the protection of computer programs. This will be informed by an analysis of the approach taken by the UK.