

Research and Study on the State of Intellectual Property Protection Related to Virtual Space

In recent years, the use of virtual space for business has been expanding rapidly.

On the other hand, the development of laws and rules concerning virtual space is still under discussion. In particular, since various digital contents are created in virtual space, it is necessary to examine how intellectual property related to virtual space can be protected under the existing intellectual property laws (legal systems), and what kind of legal systems can be developed to meet the needs for further protection.

In this study, we have identified the objects that are protected by the current intellectual property laws and the objects that are not protected with respect to intellectual property related to virtual space. In addition, we interviewed companies doing business in the virtual space and experts on the status of protection, issues, and needs, etc., and also surveyed legislation and discussions in other countries.

We hope that this report, which summarizes valuable information and knowledge obtained from a survey of domestic and foreign literature and hearings with domestic and foreign companies and experts, will serve as a basic document for further study and, by extension, help Japanese companies and others to utilize virtual space in their business activities.