

A document that reads freely and asks not to be copied

Everything written in this file is scrambled: every word, every picture, under a key of two hundred and fifty-six bits. It opens all the same. Nobody is asked for anything, which is what most protected files in the world do.

What it asks is asked of the reading software: let this be printed and read out loud, but do not let it be copied or changed. It is a request and not a lock, and software that pays no heed to it copies the page all the same.

The author's password lifts the request: the owner

The other document of this pair

A second document was written beside this one. That one shows nothing at all until its password is typed in, while the page you are reading opened on its own.

Where the key comes from

The thirty-two bytes the key is built from are fixed in this example, so that it writes the same file on every run and one build can be compared with the last. A program takes them from its operating system: a seed anybody can read locks nothing.