

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND COPYRIGHT PROTECTION IN SINGAPORE

HOW DOES SINGAPORE LAW TREAT AI-GENERATED CONTENT?

Artificial intelligence (AI) has developed into a tool for content creation. Singapore’s Copyright Act 2021 grants copyright protection for specific types of content. Even as AI continues to develop and evolve, the legal framework provided by the Act and court cases continues to apply to many copyright issues involving AI content creation.

WHEN ARE AUTHORIAL WORKS CREATED BY AI ELIGIBLE FOR COPYRIGHT PROTECTION?

Authorial works (artistic, literary, dramatic, and musical) are protected only if they have:



A human author



Originality

The courts have decided that these requirements mean that there must be “sufficient engagement of the human intellect”. Your work must show intellectual effort, creativity, skill, or judgement. This is assessed based on the facts of each case.

SO, CAN AI OUTPUT QUALIFY FOR COPYRIGHT PROTECTION?

YES, IF:

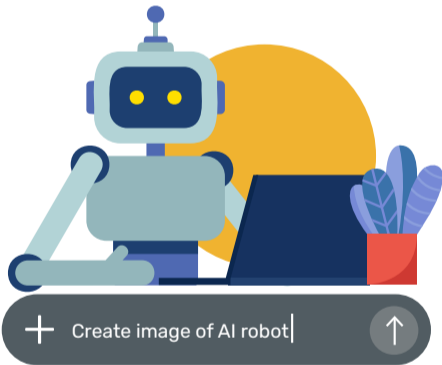
- There is sufficient engagement of the human intellect
- User exercises significant creative or editorial control



Example (US case): A hand-drawn illustration transformed by AI into a photo-realistic image where the original human input was substantially retained.

NO, IF:

- There is minimal to no human intellectual effort, creativity, skill or judgement
- AI’s algorithm decides the key expressive elements of the output
- User has little or no creative control



I can make mistakes. Check information.

Example (China/US cases): A single prompt generating an image.



PUTTING THE HUMAN IN AI CREATION

As with many major IP jurisdictions, our laws take a human-centric approach to AI by requiring human authorship for copyright protection.

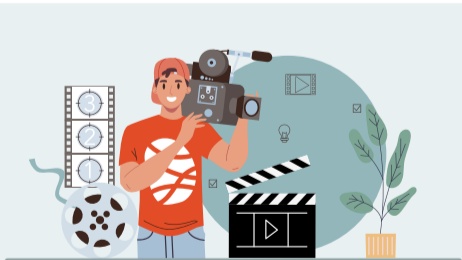
This strikes an appropriate balance between supporting creators while also encouraging innovation.



TIPS FOR DOCUMENTING HUMAN CONTRIBUTION

You can demonstrate human contribution by keeping records of how you created or modified your work, including your input, choices and judgement.

- Screenshots or time-stamped versions of the work, showing progressive changes and artistic decisions
- Maintain logs of the editing process, including what tools were used and specific creative choices made
- Save the original AI output to demonstrate the differences with the final modified version



WHAT ABOUT NON-AUTHORIAL WORKS?

For non-authorial works (e.g. films, sound recordings), human authorship and originality are not required. Whether these works are created by AI, you only need to satisfy the requirements of the Act ([see page 11 of our Copyright Infopack](#)).

WHO OWNS THE AI OUTPUT?

The general ownership rules under the Act apply.



Default: human creator unless there is an agreement stating otherwise.



Terms of use on AI platforms may override this.

[See page 12 of our Copyright Infopack.](#)



Regardless of the platform terms on ownership, there can be no copyright owner if the AI output is not eligible for protection in the first place.