

- Can you own an idea? If so, how can you claim it?

Owning an idea constitutes a broad meaning. In my opinion an idea should only be “ownable” if its implementation constitutes a significant volume of resources which could include time or capital investment. Notably this would include artwork which involves man-days to man-years of time to create such as movies, books, etc. as well as an invention such as a drug which often requires decades of research and development, clinical trials, etc. in order to prepare it for market. Thus one could apply for a patent or assume copyright protection in order to claim ownership of their idea. It's important to note that some ideas are not original and thus cannot be claimed and even if they are original they can only be claimed for a limited period of time.

- How should we think of ownership of virtual entities?

Ownership is defined by the authority/algorithms in which the assets are maintained. In the example of farmville, because the digital farm assets are stored on farmville's servers, they are under corporate management before the user is allowed access. Or in the case of cryptocurrency because the currency balance is managed by the blockchain defined by an algorithm and run by the community, the blockchain dictates your assets under management and the algorithm dictates any changes to it (ie - code is law).

- Is technology evolving to destroy the concept of ownership?

Technology is not destroying the concept of ownership, merely making it easier for a user to relinquish ownership of their assets to a foreign entity.

- Who owns an image taken of you?

- If the image was taken with consent, the image belongs to the person who captured it
- If the image was uploaded to a 3rd party platform the ownership was transferred to the manager of the data (presumably specified by terms of use)
- If the image was not taken with consent it is not owned by anyone and is illegal

- Who owns media which has been sampled and enhanced

- I've been told that anything under 30 seconds constitutes fair-use for a song/media
- Changing audio properties is hazy but usually does not constitute fair use if monetized

- Who owns an idea once it has been expressed?

- It depends on the manner in which it was expressed, in reality it should be like copyright where ownership is assumed until a time-period has elapsed but the actual legal implementation may be out of touch with this