

Chapter 4: Intellectual Property Slides prepared by Cyndi Chie and Sarah Frye Intellectual Property and Changing Technology What is Intellectual Property? o Concepts such as copyleft and the GNU Public License provide alternatives to proprietary software within today's current legal framework Issues for Software Developers Patents for Software? o The intangible creative work, not its particular physical form o Value of intelligence and artistic work comes from creativity, ideas, research, skills, labor, non-material efforts and attributes the creator provides o Protected by copyright and patent law Intellectual Property and Changing Technology (cont.) What is Intellectual Property? o Patents protect inventions of new things or processes o The Supreme Court said that software could not be patented; however a machine that included software could o Patents are not supposed to be given for things that are obvious or are already in common use o The Patent Office has made mistakes so Would there be sufficient incentives to produce the huge quantity of consumer software available now? o Would the current funding methods for free software be sufficient to support all software development? o Should software be covered under copyright law?