


The corporate drive for DRM is motivated by the fear of ebook piracy. But aside from piracy, the biggest ebook-related threat to the Big Six is called Amazon.com. Until 2008, ebooks were a tiny market segment, under 1% and easily overlooked; but in 2009 ebook sales began to rise exponentially, and ebooks now account for over 20% of all fiction sales. In some areas ebooks are up to 40% of the market and rising rapidly. (I am not making that last figure up: I'm speaking from my own sales figures.) **And Amazon have got 80% of the ebook retail market.**

--Charles Stross

Tor/Forge Plans DRM-Free E-books By July

Apr 24, 2012

[Tweet](#)  | [Reader Comments](#)

 **Subscribe by the Month**

In a move likely to be followed by other large book publishers, Tor/Forge, one of the largest publishers of science fiction and fantasy in the world, announced plans to drop DRM from all its e-book releases by July 2012. Although used by most large publishers and online retailers, digital rights management software, which is designed to prevent digital copying, is generally considered ineffective at stopping digital piracy as well as being a nuisance to legitimate consumers.

While smaller digital-only publishers like romance house Carina Press or the large technology house O'Reilly Media, have long dropped DRM—O'Reilly believes digital copying and sharing actually leads to more sales—Tor/Forge looks to be the first major New York trade house to drop DRM from their books. The plan to release DRM-free books also includes Tor imprints Orb, Starscape and Tor Teen.

The change will not affect titles from Macmillan, Tor/Forge's parent company, which will continue to be released with DRM, at least for now.

Tom Doherty, president and publisher of Tor/Forge, said the Tor/Forge titles will be available from the same retailers that currently sell their e-books and he expects to add new retailers that sell only DRM-free titles.

"Our authors and readers have been asking for this for a long time," Doherty said. "They're a technically sophisticated bunch, and DRM is a constant annoyance to them. It prevents them from using legitimately-purchased e-books in perfectly legal ways, like moving them from one kind of e-reader to another."

Things to Consider

E-Ink vs. LCD

Weight

Storage

Battery

Wi-Fi

E-book provider

E-book Manufacturers

Kindle

Kobo

Nook

Sony

E-book Sources













Amazon's "Kindle Owner's Lending Library"





Downloadable Content (DLC)





feedbooks.com

Project Gutenberg

Project MUSE

 <p>Kindle \$79.00</p> <p>Connectivity Wi-Fi</p> <p>Content Millions of books, newspapers, magazines, games, and docs</p> <p>Web Experimental browser</p>	 <p>Kindle Touch \$99.00</p>  <p>Kindle Touch 3G \$149.00</p> <p>Wi-Fi Free 3G + Wi-Fi</p> <p>Millions of books, newspapers, magazines, audiobooks, games, and docs</p> <p>Experimental browser</p>	 <p>Kindle Keyboard \$139.00</p>  <p>Kindle Keyboard 3G</p> <p>Wi-Fi Free 3G + Wi-Fi</p> <p>Millions of books, newspapers, magazines, audiobooks, games, and docs</p> <p>Experimental browser</p>	 <p>Kindle DX \$379.00</p> <p>Free 3G</p> <p>Millions of books, newspapers, magazines, audiobooks, games, and docs</p> <p>Experimental browser</p>	 <p>Kindle Fire \$199.00</p> <p>Wi-Fi</p> <p>20 million movies, TV shows, apps, games, songs, books, newspapers, audiobooks, magazines, and docs</p> <p>Amazon Silk cloud-accelerated browser</p>
<p>Display 6" E Ink Pearl</p> <p>Battery Life, Wireless Off 1 month</p> <p>Storage 2GB on device for 1,400 books Plus free cloud storage for all Amazon content so you never have to worry about running out of space</p> <p>Dimensions 6.5" x 4.5" x 0.34"</p> <p>Weight 5.98 ounces</p>	<p>6" E Ink Pearl</p> <p>2 months</p> <p>4GB on device for 3,000 books Plus free cloud storage for all Amazon content so you never have to worry about running out of space</p> <p>6.8" x 4.7" x 0.40"</p> <p>7.5 ounces 7.8 ounces</p>	<p>6" E Ink Pearl</p> <p>2 months</p> <p>4GB on device for 3,500 books Plus free cloud storage for all Amazon content so you never have to worry about running out of space</p> <p>7.5" x 4.8" x 0.34"</p> <p>8.5 ounces 8.7 ounces</p>	<p>9.7" E Ink Pearl</p> <p>3 weeks</p> <p>4GB on device for 3,500 books Plus free cloud storage for all Amazon content so you never have to worry about running out of space</p> <p>10.4" x 7.2" x 0.38"</p> <p>18.9 ounces</p>	<p>7" Vibrant Color IPS</p> <p>8 hours continuous reading or 7.5 hours video playback</p> <p>8GB on device for 80 apps plus either 10 movies or 800 songs or 6,000 books Plus free cloud storage for all Amazon content so you never have to worry about running out of space</p> <p>7.5" x 4.7" x 0.45"</p> <p>14.6 ounces</p>
<p>Interface</p>  <p>5-way controller</p>	 <p>multi-touch</p>	 <p>keyboard</p>	 <p>keyboard</p>	 <p>multi-touch</p>

<p>NOOK Simple Touch™ "Best eReader" -Gizmodo</p>  <p>Ultra-light, longest battery life Only \$99 BUY NOW, SHIPS FREE Explore Features > Take a Tour ></p>	<p>INTRODUCING NOOK Simple Touch™ with GlowLight™</p>  <p>Bedtime reading made perfect Just \$139 PRE-ORDER, SHIPS FREE Explore Features > Take a Tour ></p> <p><small>Screen and light effects simulated</small></p>	<p>NOOK Color™ "Best value in the tablet world" - msnbc.com</p>  <p>Tablet essentials at a great value Now \$499 \$169 BUY NOW, SHIPS FREE Explore Features > Take a Tour ></p>	<p>NOOK Tablet™ "Wow" Product" - Forrester Research Inc"</p>  <p>Our fastest, most powerful tablet Starting at \$199 BUY 8GB BUY 16GB Explore Features > Take a Tour ></p> <p><small>8GB Memory - 5GB of content, of which 1GB is reserved for NOOK Store content</small></p>
<p>Size / Weight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.5" x 5.0" x 0.47" • 165.4mm x 126.6mm x 12.0mm • 7.48 oz (212g)³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.5" x 5.0" x 0.47" • 165.4mm x 126.6mm x 12.0mm • 6.95 oz (197g)³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.1" x 5.0" x 0.48" • 205mm x 128mm x 12.2mm • 15.8 oz (449g)³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.1" x 5.0" x 0.48" • 205mm x 128mm x 12.2mm • 14.1 oz (400g)³
<p>Battery Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longest battery life of any reader¹ • Read for over 2 months on a single charge with wireless off (based on a half hour of daily reading time)¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra long battery life⁴ • Read for over 1 month on a single charge with GlowLight on and wireless off. Or read for over 2 months with GlowLight off (based on a half hour of daily reading time)⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read for up to 8 hours on a single charge with wireless off⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read for up to 11.5 hours on a single charge with wireless off and power save mode on⁵ • Watch 9 hours of video on a single charge with wireless off and power save mode on⁵
<p>Memory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2GB⁶: 1GB for content, of which 750MB is reserved for NOOK Store Content • Add up to 32GB microSD™ memory card for personal files⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2GB⁶: 1GB for content, of which 750MB is reserved for NOOK Store Content • Add up to 32GB microSD™ memory card for personal files⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8GB⁶ - 6GB for content, of which 5GB is reserved for NOOK Store content • Add up to 32GB microSD™ memory card for personal files⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOOK Tablet - 8GB: 5GB for content, of which 1GB is reserved for NOOK Store content⁶ • NOOK Tablet - 16GB: 13GB for content, of which 12GB is reserved for NOOK Store content⁷ • Add up to 32GB microSD™ memory card for personal files⁸
<p>Other Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longest battery life of any reader¹ • Personalize screensavers with your photos (uses standard JPG, PNG, GIF, BMP images) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakthrough GlowLight technology • Personalize screensavers with your photos (uses standard JPG, PNG, GIF, BMP images) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Web browser with Adobe® Flash® Player¹⁰ • Supported file types: PDF, CBZ, XLS, DOC, PPT, TXT, DOCM, XLSTM, PPTM, PPSX, PPSM, DOCX, XLX, PPTX • Portrait and landscape reading modes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Web browser with Adobe® Flash® Player¹⁰ • Supported file types: PDF, CBZ, XLS, DOC, PPT, TXT, DOCM, XLSTM, PPTM, PPSX, PPSM, DOCX, XLX, PPTX • Portrait and landscape reading modes • Built-in microphone

<p>Compare more items</p> <p>Features</p>	 	  <p>▶▶ Product Tour</p>
<p>Product Name</p>	<p>Sony Reader Wi-Fi - Black - PRS-T1BC</p>	<p>Ectaco jetBOOK LITE e-Book Reader</p>
<p>Customer Rating:</p>	<p>★★★★★ (4 Reviews)</p>	<p>★★★★★ (18 Reviews)</p>
<p>Price</p>	<p>\$129.99 FREE GROUND SHIPPING Was \$149.99 You Save \$20.00 (13%)</p> <p>ADD to Cart</p>	<p>\$89.88 FREE GROUND SHIPPING Was \$169.99 You Save \$80.11 (47%)</p> <p>ADD to Cart</p>

E-Book Format Support Table

Reader ↕	Plain text ↕	PDF ↕	ePub ↕	HTML ↕	Mobi-Pocket ↕	Fiction-Book (Fb2) ↕	DjVu ↕	Broadband eBook (BBeB) ^[h 1] ↕	eReader ^[h 1] ↕	Kindle ^[h 1] ↕	WOLF ^[h 1] ↕	Tome Raider ^[h 1] ↕	Open eBook ^[h 2] ↕
Amazon Kindle 1	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Amazon Kindle 2, DX	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Amazon Kindle 3	Yes	Yes	No ^[h 3]	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Amazon Kindle Fire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Android Devices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes ^{[h 4][27]}	Yes	Yes ^{[h 4][28]}	No	Yes ^{[h 4][29]}	Yes	No	Yes ^{[h 4][24]}	Yes ^[h 4]
Apple iOS Devices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes ^[h 4]	Yes ^[h 4]	Yes ^[h 4]	No	Yes ^[h 4]	Yes ^[h 4]	No	Yes ^[h 4]	Yes ^[h 4]
Azbooka WISEreader	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Barnes & Noble Nook	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Barnes & Noble Nook Color	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Bookeen Cybook Gen3, Opus	Yes	Yes	Yes ^[h 5]	Yes	Yes ^[h 5]	Yes ^[h 6]	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
COOL-ER Classic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Gnu/Linux Operating System	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	?	?	Yes	?	?	?	?	?	?
Foxit eSlick	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Hanlin e-Reader V3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Hanvon WISEreader	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
iRex iLiad	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Iriver Story	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes ^[h 4]	Yes ^[h 4]	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kobo eReader	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Nokia N900	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
NUUTbook 2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
OLPC XO, Sugar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Onyx Boox 60	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mac OS X	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Yes	?	?	Yes
Windows	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	?	Yes	Yes ^[h 7]	?	?	Yes
Pocketbook 301 Plus, 302, 360 ⁺	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sony Reader	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Viewsonic VEB612	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Windows Phone 7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No