

The Legal Protection Status and Optimization Path of Network Virtual Property Inheritance Right

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Abstract: In the Internet era, the network shapes a new form of civil life and promotes the formation of network virtual property. Network virtual property is a new type of property with deep integration of human life and the Internet, which has profound economic value and social value. In response to the protection of network virtual property, Article 127 of the Civil Code clearly stipulates network virtual property. However, there are few provisions on network virtual property, which makes it difficult to solve the legal problems derived from judicial practice. The inheritance right of network virtual property is a concrete manifestation of it. In view of the particularity of network virtual property, combined with the problems in judicial practice in China, there are some difficulties in the protection of virtual property inheritance in China, such as imperfect legislative protection, difficulty in evaluating value and conflict between inheritance right and privacy right. Therefore, the protection of network virtualization in China needs to be improved. Based on this, our country should combine the dilemma of judicial practice, improve the relevant laws and regulations, so that the virtual property inheritance rights can be realized according to the law; set up third-party institutions to clarify the obligations of operators; clarify the inheritance procedure of virtual property and protect the privacy of users.

Keywords: Network Virtual Property, Inheritance, Legal Protection.

Disciplines: Jurisprudence.

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1 INTRODUCTION

According to the "Statistical Report on the Development of Internet in China," as of December 2023, the number of Internet users in China has reached 1.092 billion, and the Internet penetration rate has reached 77.5 %; among them, the number of mobile Internet users reached 1.091 billion, and the proportion of Internet users using mobile Internet was as high as 99.9 %. It can be seen that China has entered the Internet era, and people's daily life is inseparable from electronic equipment. However, according to the laws of nature, human beings will face death one day, and how to inherit the virtual property of their networks has become a difficult problem. In 2003, after the first case of 'network virtual property theft' in China, more and more cases and disputes related to network virtual property occurred frequently. In this context, the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of the owners of network virtual property has been paid more and more attention, especially the issue of inheritance rights. Network virtual property is not only the property of economic value, but also has certain spiritual value, such as recording the memories of the owner through video, photos, audio and other carriers. Therefore, the network virtual property has become a hot issue that the society can not avoid, and has attracted more and more

attention from the people. In 2020, the revision of the "Civil Code" for the first time incorporated virtual property into the scope of protection in the General Provisions, which fully reflects China's high emphasis on the legal protection of virtual property rights and interests. However, due to the lack of legal provisions on network virtual property, especially the lack of clear provisions on the scope, ownership, inheritance and other related issues of network virtual property, the court has no legal basis in the trial of cases, and there are different judgments in the same case. In the process of academic research on the legal protection of network virtual property, different scholars have put forward their own views, but there are also many disputes. Based on this, by analyzing the current situation of the legal protection of network virtual property, this paper explores its practical dilemma, and puts forward the optimization path in combination with the actual situation, so as to provide a reference path for the legal protection of network virtual property.[1]

2 THEORETICAL ANALYSIS: THE LEGAL BASIS OF THE INHERITANCE RIGHT OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY

2.1 THE INHERITABILITY OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY

On the one hand, network virtual property is a form of expression of new property derived from the development of modern society. It is a new type of network digital property that is non-materialized with the Internet as the carrier, also known as 'network wealth', and can be transformed into real material property under certain conditions, with economic and spiritual dual value attributes. Network virtual property belongs to the category of "things" stipulated in the "Civil Code." Therefore, the network virtual property belongs to the object of protection of civil law. Article 127 of China's "Civil Code (General Provisions)" clearly stipulates that network virtual property and its data are the objects of civil law protection: if the law has provisions on the protection of data and network virtual property, it shall be in accordance with its provisions. On the other hand, through the analysis of Article 1 of the 'Civil Code (Succession)' and Article 13 of the 'Constitution of the People's Republic of China', it can be learned that protecting the private property of citizens under the basic principles of protecting citizens is the basic principle and fundamental task of the 'Civil Code (Succession).[2] By analyzing the nature of network virtual property and combining with the provisions of China's law, network virtual property can be inherited and protected as a citizen's private property as long as it is reasonable property. To sum up, it is feasible to explore the inheritance of network virtual property as a legal protection issue.

2.2 THE INHERITABILITY OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY

From the literal meaning, the network virtual property is different from the traditional material property. Its focus is on the word 'virtual', which is obviously different from the traditional property. Network virtual property is mainly embodied in digital property. Therefore, network virtual property should be defined as covering all types of digital property. Therefore, in a broad sense, we can understand the variety, wide range and different forms of network virtual property. Combined with the current academic point of view, the scope of generalized network virtual property can be divided into five categories: the first category is the user password type, the owner enjoys absolute rights to the network virtual property by mastering the form of account password, such as WeChat, QQ, Weibo, Tik Tok, etc.; the second type is the virtual currency type, which can convert economic value in market transactions, such as bitcoin, fund, Q coin, etc. [3] the third category is the type of credit, such as the credit rating of Taobao shops; the fourth category is the type of communication, input mobile phone contacts, chat records, mailboxes, etc.; the fifth category is the type of game device. That is, the network user's game equipment in the account. As a product of the combination of human beings and Internet technology in social interaction, network virtual property has the characteristics of virtuality and

dependence. Different from traditional property, the biggest characteristic of virtual property is virtual, which needs to be represented by the Internet in the form of attachment to the network. Secondly, the network virtual property is unstable, also known as ups and downs, which is mainly affected by the supply and demand of the market, the operation of network operators and other factors. In addition to its strong economic value, network virtual property is also important for people's emotional condolences and spiritual sustenance. Finally, operability is an important feature of network virtual property. For example, the owner of network virtual property can control it through the services provided by operators. For example, the owner of WeChat account can set the account number and password to realize the absolute control of the account, turn it into a private space, and control the account by publishing information, interacting with other users and so on. For example, game players can log in through the account and play games in the game world. From this point of view, the network virtual property can carry out various activities under the control of the owner, which has obvious operability.

2.3 1.3 IMPROVE THE VALUE OF THE TIMES OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY INHERITANCE RIGHTS

In today's era, the normative protection of network virtual property has become an unavoidable topic of the times, and it is of great significance to improve its protection. First of all, anything can achieve effective development as long as it is protected by the legal system. [4] Therefore, only by standardizing the protection system of network virtual property can we safeguard the basic rights of citizens, effectively protect citizens' private property, and promote the effective operation of the economic market. As the private property of citizens, the network virtual property can be realized under certain conditions, and it has a strong property attribute. Secondly, the legal protection of network virtual property is not perfect, and the judge can not realize the law in the process of judgment, which leads to the failure of the judge to form a unified inference in the judicial practice, and the problem of different judgments in the same case. At the same time, it is not conducive to protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the parties. Through the normative protection of the inheritance right of network virtual property, the legitimate rights and interests of the parties can be effectively safeguarded. Again, with the development of the Internet, leading to new civil disputes, civil disputes are also growing. If it can effectively regulate the inheritance right of network virtual property, it can provide a paradigm for network dispute resolution and provide useful reference for solving network contradictions and disputes. Finally, the normative protection of network virtual property meets the legislative requirements of the world. With the development of Internet technology, the network has become an inseparable part of human life. At present, the protection of network virtual property in foreign countries is relatively mature. In the context of globalization, China should also

keep up with the trend of the times, strengthen the legislation in the key areas of network virtual property, and protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens.

3 RESEARCH STATUS: THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY AT HOME AND ABROAD FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

3.1 THE STATUS QUO OF LEGAL PROTECTION OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

With the development of Internet technology, the network has become an important part of human life. Network virtual property has become a major problem that all countries in the world need to respond to urgently. Countries have also adopted different legal protection measures in the field of network virtual property. Taking the United States as an example, some states in the United States have adopted legislative protection of network virtual property. The more typical is Oklahoma, which stipulates that the network virtual property is included in the scope of testamentary succession. If the parties do not establish a will, the court will determine the heir in the form of a legal heir in accordance with the law.

Germany's law incorporates network virtual property into the scope of general property. The provisions of German property law not only reflect that network virtual property is the economic property of currency exchange, such as the equipment of games and the economic value of accounts. It also fully embodies the emotional value of network virtual property, such as photos, videos, audios and so on. In Germany, the network virtual property is not only generally protected like other countries, but also specially stipulated that the network digital heritage is protected by law within ten years.^[5]

The legal provisions of the United Kingdom are similar to those of Germany. Network virtual property is protected by law as well as other property. It also stipulates that within ten years of the death of the deceased, the law will protect network virtual property. In the UK, network virtual property plays an important role as other property, so most people will distribute network virtual property in the form of a will before death, so as to avoid no inheritance of network virtual property after death, resulting in idle property. Korea's legal provisions define virtual property as a thing in real right, and equate network virtual property with 'electronic currency', which has the attribute of thing. South Korea highly protects the legitimate rights and interests of the parties. The law stipulates that the service provider, that is, the operator, as a third party, is to create a platform for virtual property owners

to provide virtual goods, currency and other related platforms. The platform has no right to interfere with the increase or decrease of relevant information of the owner, and only the owner has this right. Therefore, there is no essential difference between the nature of virtual property and the nature of bank accounts in South Korea, both of which are the means for owners to store personal private property. It can be seen that there is no difference between the inheritance of Korean virtual property and the inheritance of ordinary property.

According to the legal protection of the inheritance right of network virtual property in foreign countries, it can be known that different countries adopt different provisions to protect the inheritance right of private network virtual property. China can learn from the protection mode of foreign countries and improve the legal protection measures of virtual property in combination with the actual situation of our country.

3.2 THE STATUS QUO OF LEGAL PROTECTION OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

At present, the legal protection of virtual property in China is not perfect. Although the 'Civil Code' stipulates virtual property, the lack of operability of the provisions leads to problems in judicial practice. Nowadays, the issue of legal protection of network virtual property is gradually increasing. Although the provisions of the 'Civil Code' on virtual property are less involved, from the perspective of legal nature, network virtual property belongs to the 'Civil Code (Property Code)'. The object is the legal property acquired by a natural person. Judging from the Chinese judgment documents, most courts currently determine the property attributes of network virtual property at the time of judgment. For example, the Xi'an New Town People's Court will auction a high price of 630,000 for mobile phone numbers, fully affirming the economic value of virtual property. However, in the judicial practice, the lack of clear provisions of the law leads to the problem of different judgments in the same case in the process of judgment, so only one case can be solved.

4 EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION: THE REALISTIC DILEMMA OF THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF THE INHERITANCE RIGHT OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY IN CHINA

In view of the realistic dilemma of China's network virtual property case disputes in judicial practice, combined with the current situation of China's network virtual property protection, it is found that China's network virtual property

inheritance rights have the following problems : first, the most fundamental is that the network virtual property is not perfect in legislation, and it cannot achieve effective protection of virtual property ; secondly, the lack of evaluation criteria for network virtual property leads to difficulties in value evaluation in reality, and it is difficult to obtain relevant evidence for the ownership of virtual property ; finally, because the network operators attach great importance to the privacy of users, there is a conflict with the legal protection of privacy in reality.

4.1 THE NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY

INHERITANCE LEGISLATION IS NOT PERFECT

At present, China 's legislation on the inheritance right of network virtual property is not perfect. China 's law has not made clear provisions on the inheritance right of network virtual property. Although the ' Civil Code (Inheritance) ' stipulates the right of citizens to inherit private property. Network virtual property can be regarded as the inheritance of citizens ' private property, and citizens can enjoy the right of inheritance. However, due to the lack of detailed provisions in the law, judges do not have criteria for judging cases. Network virtual property has economic value, such as game equipment purchased by players, which can be traded in the market according to its meaning. For example, some virtual currencies such as Bitcoin can be converted into real currencies in the market. This kind of virtual property belongs to one kind of intangible property, which should be included in the scope of legislative protection and clearly stipulated. In today 's life, network virtual property is also widely used in the market. For example, Meituan Alipay 's current consumption can be consumed through the points accumulated by users. In the process of consumption, points act as the role of currency. It can be seen that the form of network virtual property is increasingly diversified and plays an important role in our life. At present, relying solely on the market can not effectively regulate the development of network virtual property. From this point of view, it is urgent to improve the legislative guarantee of the inheritance right of network virtual property, and it is necessary to clearly define the scope, inheritance procedure, guarantee and other specific contents of network virtual property, so as to solve the legal problems of network virtual property inheritance.

4.2 THE VALUE OF NETWORK VIRTUAL

PROPERTY IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS AND DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN EVIDENCE IN REALITY

In reality, the value of network virtual property is difficult to evaluate and it is difficult to obtain evidence in reality because of its ' virtual ' characteristics. On the one hand, network virtual property is difficult to evaluate because it belongs to incorporeal things and is attached to the network and can be visualized through data transformation. First of all, the network virtual property has the characteristics of wide range, many kinds and different forms, and it is a new thing.

At present, there is no unified evaluation standard for the evaluation of network virtual property in China, and the value recognition of network virtual property by users, operators and institutions is also different, which makes it difficult to evaluate the value of network virtual property in real life. Secondly, due to the lack of a professional and unified evaluation institution for network virtual property in China, the evaluation of network virtual property with economic value is different, and because the network virtual property has spiritual value, the evaluation of spiritual value cannot be accurately unified, which leads to the problem of different judgments in the same case in judicial practice. Because China has not formed a unified evaluation standard of the industry rules, and because the evaluation agency is not professional, resulting in the value of the network virtual property evaluation on the definition of controversy, the evaluation criteria are not uniform, in the dispute case there is no clear legal provisions of the standard, only one case, to solve a case, easy to cause judicial dilemma.

4.3 THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE RIGHT OF INHERITANCE AND THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY.

At present, China attaches great importance to the protection of citizens ' right to privacy, and the right to privacy is extended and does not disappear due to the death of network users. As a result, there is a conflict between the legal protection of network virtual property inheritance and the legal protection of privacy, which brings some difficulties to the judicial practice of network virtual property inheritance. In the Internet era, users ' privacy rights are more vulnerable to infringement, and cases of infringement of users ' privacy rights occur frequently. Therefore, China 's " Civil Code (Personality Rights) " clearly stipulates that civil subjects enjoy personality rights. In reality, operators can refuse to provide the user 's account password to the user 's relatives on the grounds of protecting the user 's privacy. In China, such problems have occurred in the inheritance of Alipay, WeChat, and game accounts. Therefore, it can be known that there is a conflict between the legal protection of network virtual property inheritance rights and the legal protection of privacy rights, which seriously hinders the network virtual property inheritance rights. At present, how to balance the inheritance right and privacy right of network virtual property is an important part of solving the practical dilemma of legal protection of network virtual property inheritance right in China.^[6]

5 PATH EXPLORATION: THE OPTIMIZATION PATH OF LEGAL PROTECTION OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY INHERITANCE RIGHT

5.1 PERFECTING THE LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION OF THE INHERITANCE RIGHT OF NETWORK VIRTUAL PROPERTY

To improve the relevant legislation of the inheritance right of network virtual property in China, we can start from the following three aspects : first, we should improve the relevant laws and regulations, so that the inheritance right of network virtual property can be realized according to the law ; secondly, in specific cases, we can learn from the advanced experience or existing precedents outside the region to clarify the judicial interpretation ; finally, temporary measures can be implemented, that is, special legislation and separate legislation.^[7]

First of all, we should clearly stipulate the litigation procedure of network virtual property disputes from the procedural law such as the ' Civil Procedure Law of the People 's Republic of China '. In the inheritance of network virtual property, if there is a dispute, the corresponding procedure should be applied to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the right holders. At the same time, it can also be clearly stipulated in the ' Civil Code ' that the heirs of network virtual property can obtain inheritance rights through legal inheritance or testamentary inheritance, effectively protect the principle of party autonomy, and rationally allocate personal property.

Secondly, the judicial interpretation of the inheritance right of network virtual property can be improved by referring to the advanced practices of foreign countries, and the localization improvement can be carried out by referring to the more typical and socially effective cases of foreign countries. And domestic judicial organs, such as the Supreme People 's Court, can collect relevant typical cases for publication, which can provide reference for judges to deal with such cases, so that the judgment of the case can be followed.

Finally, after full investigation, special patents or separate legislation can be made on the protection of network virtual property. And under the framework of the legal protection of network virtual property, the focus will be on the legal protection of network virtual property inheritance. At present, the disputes of network virtual property cases are increasing, which is a major hot spot at present. It is an effective temporary legal measure to solve the legal problems faced by special patents. Special patents should not only adapt to the development of the Internet, but also carry out forward-looking thinking and repeated verification on policy issues and technical issues with legal theory, so as to construct a virtual property rights and interests protection system that not only has a theoretical system, but also covers new Internet relations and effectively adjusts civil legal relations.^[8]

5.2 SET UP A THIRD-PARTY EVALUATION AGENCY TO CLARIFY THE RELEVANT OBLIGATIONS OF OPERATORS

As mentioned above, due to the lack of a unified evaluation standard in China and the lack of a professional third-party evaluation agency, problems have arisen in the evaluation of the value of virtual property and the collection of evidence. Therefore, a third-party evaluation agency can be set up to give it the right to judge, thereby promoting the effectiveness of the legal protection of virtual property and reducing disputes or invalid judgments. On the one hand, when setting up a third-party evaluation agency to evaluate the value of network virtual property, it is necessary to fully consider the comprehensive factors, combine the market demand, the value of the product itself, the transaction cost time, etc.to conduct a comprehensive evaluation, especially for some network virtual property that carries memories and has great spiritual value. Because of its special attributes, it is not easy to evaluate, so it is necessary to investigate and collect evidence, combined with the actual situation of the parties, to evaluate its spiritual value. On the other hand, the evaluation system of the third-party evaluation agency is related to the rules of market transactions. The results of its evaluation should be based on evidence and can not be judged at random, which affects the quality and effectiveness of the evaluation results. Third-party evaluation agencies should also evaluate under the circumstances prescribed by law. As a third-party regulatory agency, it is necessary to clarify its own responsibilities, implement the principle of fairness, and make judgments according to law.^[9]

For the difficulty of obtaining evidence of network virtual property, it is necessary to clarify the legal obligations of operators to prevent operators from abusing their rights and damaging the legitimate rights and interests of network users. At present, most of the service agreements provided by network operators make it clear that users can only enjoy the ownership of the account by themselves, and can not privately transfer or sell the right to use the leased account. In addition, after a long period of failure to log in the account or after the arrival of the service period, the operator has the right to recover the account or cancel the account. The content of the agreement is clear that the private subject of the network account cannot be transferred privately, and these terms become the ' overlord terms ' of chat, game and other software. Therefore, it can be seen that the network protocol service clause, namely the ' overlord clause ', is signed from an unfair perspective, which violates the principle of fairness stipulated by the law, easily infringes on the legitimate rights and interests of the parties, and is not conducive to the inheritance of civil subjects and the inheritance of network virtual property. Therefore, the legitimate rights and interests of the operator should be clearly defined in its content when signing the ' user agreement ' with the operator when the user is registered. The provisions that hinder the inheritance of network virtual property in the content of the agreement

should be improved and revised. Under necessary conditions, the "overlord clause" in the content of the agreement should be abolished. After the death of the user, the close relatives can inherit the right of network virtual property.^[10]

5.3 DEFINE THE INHERITANCE PROCEDURE OF VIRTUAL PROPERTY, REGULATE AND PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF USERS

In the inheritance of virtual property, the most important link is that network operators provide convenience to obtain the account information of network users. In reality, the reason why most people refuse to provide the account information of the account owner is that if the account information of the owner is provided, it is easy to violate the user's privacy right. If it is not a legitimate successor, it is easy to infringe on the user's privacy. Therefore, the legal procedure of network virtual property inheritance should be clarified. China can learn from foreign advanced practices, with reference to advanced legislative experience. China can carry out inheritance in accordance with the requirements of the heirs to put forward the inheritance of the heirs-the network operators to verify the real situation-the network operators to inform the password truthfully, and the ternary program to inherit.

First, the network virtual property enters the normal inheritance procedure, and the heir should request the network operator to inherit and actively apply for the information of the account. However, the premise of the application by the heir is to provide relevant proof. The relevant proofs can include the following: proof of kinship with the decedent, proof of the decedent's declaration of disappearance, proof of the decedent's declaration of disappearance provided by the hospital, and the court's judgment on the decedent's disappearance. In short, the premise of the application is that the heir should provide proof of the identity relationship with the decedent, which is used as the basic evidence to query the account information of the network decedent.

Second, after the network operator receives the disclosure application and related documents submitted by the heir to the network application. The network operator should promptly review the application and related

certification materials submitted, and whether it is consistent with the information filled in by the heir when registering the account. If after the audit, the application proof material submitted by the heir is consistent with the information filled in when the heir provides registration, the network operator should provide the account number and password to the heir to ensure that the heir can inherit the virtual property smoothly. If the network operator audits that the evidence submitted by the heir does not match the personal data submitted by the decedent when registering the account, the network operator should refuse to provide the account number and password.

Third, according to the inheritance of network virtual property, it is necessary to confirm whether the original account name needs to be modified. If the heir inherits the virtual property, it will affect the legitimate rights and interests of the third party. Then a third party should be required to modify the name of the account under the premise of affecting the rights and interests of others, so as to enjoy the right of inheritance. For example, the information used by the seller's login account is external login information. However, when the network operator requires the merchant to register the account information, it is required to fill in the real name, mobile phone number, identity card number and other information, and the real name authentication is implemented. At this time, if from the perspective of consumers, to protect the legitimate rights and interests of consumers, after the heirs inherit the network virtual property, they should be required to modify the account information, truthfully fill in personal information, and prevent consumers from being deceived. If the inherited account belongs to the account of personality interests, it does not involve the issue of consumption and transaction security. Whether the information of the account needs to be modified is not required. The heir can modify or not according to their own situation, and continue to use the original relevant information.

Fourth, if the owner of the network virtual property has set up a will before his death, the court should follow the meaning of the decedent and inherit the property according to the will. If the owner makes a will to stipulate that the network virtual property will not be inherited, the court should determine that the network virtual property cannot be inherited according to the owner's will.^[12]

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

First-level Optimization Paths	Secondary Specific Measures	Core Implementation Details
Improving the Legislative Protection for the Right of Inheritance of Online Virtual Property	1.Refining Basic Laws and Regulations	Regarding the Civil Procedure Law: Clarify the exclusive litigation procedures for disputes over the inheritance of online virtual property to avoid obstacles to safeguarding rights due to ambiguous procedures; Regarding the Civil Code: Clearly stipulate that online virtual property can be transferred through statutory inheritance or testamentary inheritance, fully protecting the testator's autonomy of will.
	2.Supplementing Special Judicial Interpretations	Draw on mature judicial precedents from foreign jurisdictions (e.g., Oklahoma in the United States, Germany, South Korea) and adapt them to China's judicial practice; The Supreme People's Court shall select and publish typical cases (such as cases involving the inheritance of virtual currencies

		or game accounts) to provide a "reference for judges to follow" in adjudicating cases.
	3.Promoting Separate Legislation	Establish a complete legal framework covering "definition of the scope of virtual property-inheritance rules-dispute resolution"; The legislation shall balance the characteristics of Internet technology and the principles of civil law to ensure it can address inheritance issues related to new types of virtual property (e.g., AI-generated content, metaverse assets).
Establishing Third-Party Evaluation Institutions and Clarifying the Obligations of Operators	1.Setting Up Professional Third-Party Evaluation Institutions	Evaluation dimensions: Comprehensively consider market supply and demand relations (e.g., virtual currency exchange rates), intrinsic value of the property (e.g., recharge costs for game equipment), and spiritual value (e.g., photos/chat records carrying memories);Evaluation standards: Evidence collection must be conducted in accordance with the law (e.g., retrieving transaction records), and results must be accompanied by written evidence to prohibit arbitrary determination;- Core principle: Uphold fairness to avoid disputes over the value of inherited property caused by evaluation deviations.
	2.Regulating the Obligations of Internet Operators	Revise the User Service Agreement: Abolish unfair standard clauses such as "accounts are for personal use only" and "operators may unilaterally cancel accounts"; Clarify the obligation to assist in inheritance: After the user's death, operators shall cooperate with the legitimate requests of heirs for information inquiry and acquisition, and shall not refuse without justifiable reasons.
Clarifying the Inheritance Procedure of Virtual Property and Standardizing the Protection of Users' Privacy Rights	1.Establishing a Standardized Inheritance Process	Heir Application Stage: The heir shall submit complete materials (including proof of kinship with the decedent, and legal certification documents of the decedent's death/disappearance);Operator Review Stage: Verify the application materials against the real-name authentication information provided by the decedent when registering the account to ensure the heir's identity is legitimate; Result Handling Stage:- If materials are consistent: Provide account access rights (e.g., password) to the heir. For business-related accounts (e.g., WeChat business accounts), the account name/real-name authentication information must be modified; for accounts with personal dignity interests (e.g., personal social media accounts), the heir may choose whether to modify the information independently; - If materials are inconsistent: Provide a written explanation of the reasons and refuse to provide information to avoid privacy leaks.
	2.Adhering to the Principle of Testamentary Priority	If the decedent left a will: Strictly implement the contents of the will (if the will stipulates "no inheritance of virtual property", such wish shall be respected);- If there is no will or the will is invalid: Automatically apply the statutory inheritance order to ensure the inheritance process is legal and compliant.

6 CONCLUSION

With the rapid development of Internet technology, a large number of network virtual property has emerged. The network virtual property not only has the attribute of economic value, but also has the attribute of spiritual value. In recent years, there have been a large number of cases and disputes of network virtual property, which makes people have to pay attention to the legal issues of network virtual property inheritance. Among them, the scope of inheritance, procedures and other related legal relationships of virtual property have not been clearly defined by law, and the problem of no legal basis in judicial practice is prominent. It is also worth us to examine and explore, and provide perfect suggestions for the legal protection of network virtual property. In view of the particularity of network virtual property and the difficulties in judicial practice in China, this paper points out that there are some problems in the protection of virtual property inheritance in China, such as imperfect legislative guarantee, difficult evaluation of value and conflict between inheritance right and privacy right. Therefore, it is necessary to improve relevant laws and regulations on the premise of protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the decedent and the heir, so that the inheritance right of virtual property can be realized according to law. Set up third-party institutions to clarify the obligations of operators; clarify the inheritance procedure of virtual

property and protect the privacy of users.

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