From:

To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: Copyright enforcement suggestions
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:41:12 PM

Hello:

I work in the video production industry, but I am also a consumer of movies, books, and music. I think the enforcement efforts should focus where the biggest violations occur. To me, the biggest violations are where pirates are earning a substantial amount of money from copyright infringement. You should use your resources to locate the people engaged in large-scale copying of DVDs and CDs without permission. If the industry claims about the extent of piracy are correct, there must be "pirate factories" somewhere. These are the folks who should be put out of business, and if they continue to pursue these illicit revenues, they should be sent to prison.

Education may also help. The "FBI warnings" on movies are more annoying than educational. Teach average people why piracy is wrong. Most people don't have a lot of sympathy for big companies like Paramount or Disney. They need to understand that copyright law exists to protect everyone. How does piracy really affect us? Are fewer movies produced? Are fewer books published? I don't know how to answer these questions, but the answer, if there is a compelling one, will help make the case that copyright infringement is not a "victimless" crime. I also think that organizations that want to have resources directed to help them should help pay for the government's efforts.

The Internet is a big can of worms with regard to copyright. My guideline is this: If someone is making money mainly based on the copyrighted work of others without permission, shut them down. Be careful however, that you confirm each case before acting. I have heard of a case where Google deleted a large number of webpages created by their users because they suspected piracy. Hundreds or thousands of things were deleted with no notice to the users. It seems likely that some of the accounts were breaking the law, but not all should suffer when only a few were at fault. Please be judicious.

Thanks for listening to my comments.

Bruce Dixon

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Bruce Dixon

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