

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Piracy Plea
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 9:21:27 AM

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

Although published with a small press, my work has been stolen several times. Each time I find a pirate, I notify my publisher and they make moves to take the book down from the storage source, however, this is costly and time consuming to them. They have to recoup the cost somehow and the only way to do this is to raise prices--forcing those who are legitimate purchasers to pay more, and with market demands, probably even impacting the author's ability to create more sales as at some point, the price becomes too high for a significant portion of the public. As many others do, I work hard to put whatever I have into a story. This takes time and effort. It costs also, as until the book is done, the artistry is not complete and should not be compensated for, even with whatever production costs are required. However, once done and available, should not anyone expect to be compensated? Especially fairly? Do I not deserve to eat? Have a roof over my head?

Okay, perhaps a little dramatic, yes, but I know many who rely on their artistic income for just this. Again, yes, piracy affects my income but it also impacts those who are honest about how they procure the work. And I supposed the one thing that bothers me the most about many of these sites is, they charge for the 'rapid' download. So they get compensated but I don't? In my mind, this is totally wrong. Regardless of whether the work is in the electronic arena or in print, effort was put into creating it. Just as a programmer would expect to be compensated for his/her labor, so does the artist. Moreover, do not think it is only individuals who are hurt in this process. What impacts a large number of persons, also impact the economy overall. Theft is theft. No recorded income is generated from this. No money flows throughout the economy because of this theft, nor does the government receive compensation in the form of taxes. So here's a thought, as prevalent as thievery is these days in all artistic arenas, would it not be prudent for the government to invest in viable research and actions that can subdue it, so that the government, in turn, can garner more income and pay off the debt of the country?

Just a thought.

Now, I understand that many of these pirates are offshore (not resident within the US). However, I do believe there is precedence for the U.S., joining with others and taking actions in these matters, as in the case of the U.S. Marines against the Barbary pirates--"from the shores of Tripoli". Regardless, something needs to be done. I do believe storage sites should be held accountable. I understand this

would be an added burden to them, however, and I could be wrong, but I believe technology should be able to accomodate this. I also think the government could help with educating the general public, especially in getting the general public to understand some of the points I made above. Again, I think viable research is needed to determine what actions to take and then the government needs to act, and act quickly. In this research I would also include the costing mechanisms used by the various industries. Many of these cost mechanisms are based on historical precedence but with the convergence of various technologies, it could be that how we define 'units' of work and how that unit is paid for is now passe. Perhaps in the electronic world, there is a better mechanism to track downloads and charge for them? I don't know, but researching this would be worth the effort.

I was informed that I should also detail the following information:

NAME: Lise Fuller

CITY: Stafford

STATE: Virginia

TYPE OF ARTIST: Author

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lise Fuller

www.lisefuller.com