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**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](mailto:FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty)  
**Cc:** [info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Infringement's effects on ebook authors and publishers  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 12:54:32 PM

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Dear Ms. Espinel,

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

Digital theft is not just a problem of record labels, movie companies and large publishers. Small, independent presses and individual authors are dramatically affected by the illegal re-distribution of their intellectual property.

I self-publish ebooks. Within a few hours of a new release, one of the purchasers will place the ebook on a filesharing site and encourage the Internet community to download it for free, rather than purchasing it from me.

Why? There's a social currency in which the poster's status is raised by this action.

What's the cost to me? I'm sure many of the illegal downloaders would not have purchased my ebook, but it stands to reason that if the illegal download did not exist, at least a portion of them would buy a legitimate copy. Illegal downloads outnumber my legitimate sales 2-to-1. If even half of those downloaders would have purchased my book, my income would double.

Is it somehow acceptable for my salary to be halved because my product is intangible--a story, rather than a physical product? If I owned a store, I could report shoplifting to my local police without incurring the cost of filing a copyright infringement suit. With digital theft, I have nowhere to report the crime, and there are no ramifications for the criminal.

What can be done? Making the websites, webhosts, registrars and internet service providers responsible, perhaps liable, for their users' violations of their terms of service would be a big step toward curbing digital theft.

If a user posts one of my copyright files to a file sharing site and I report it, the file should not only be banned from that site, but also filtered so it can't be immediately re-uploaded. Further, the poster should be banned for terms of service violations and reported to their internet provider. If posters were at genuine risk of losing their internet service, far fewer of them would participate.

As it currently stands, there is no accountability for the poster. They remain anonymous--though the file sharing host sites have access to their email addresses and IP addresses. The host sites require that I go through elaborate takedown procedures and maybe, hours or even days later, remove the file. If they remove it at all.

I believe accountability of the poster and immediate removal of files are the keys to curbing digital theft.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion about this matter.

Jordan Castillo Price, author, Madison WI