

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: New Copyright Law
Date: Friday, March 05, 2010 4:04:10 PM

To Whom it may concern,

The copyright laws in this country are already outrageous and I will not support any law that wishes to add additional enforcement, or expansion of copyright laws until the current system is fixed. I urge you to seek assistance from parties on both sides of the issue, including the United States Pirate Party.

Concerning part two, I feel that the government should update its objectives and start looking for ways to work with businesses to adopt a better model that includes the free sharing of ideas (which is what this country is founded on). If that is not possible, then I request that you look for forms of enforcement that do not go against the consumer, and the rights of consumers, such as, but not only, the ability to backup media that you already own. This trend of increased digital rights management is not only contrary to the best interests of the citizens, but in my eyes illegal.

The digital millenium copyright act, which is in my eyes an open door to abuse of citizens rights opens several loopholes that allow companies to sue individuals that are trying to back up or otherwise transfer to more persistent media things that they have bought. In the US you're given a right to back up things that you buy, such as CDs, tapes, and movies. DRM schemes seek to limit our ability as consumers to do that, and that is wrong, as those things are an inherent right. Rights management is simply a euphemism for removal of an inherent right. In addition, many media outlets involved in "copyright enforcement" have done so at great cost to both corporations and individuals. A prominent example of a company engaged in abusing this system is Sony BMG. In 2005, Sony released several audio CDs bundled with malicious software intended to control playing their media on computers. To quote Thomas Hesse, the president of Sony BMG Digital, "Most people, I think, don't even know what a rootkit is, so why should they care about it?" The aforementioned statement is a great example of blatant disregard to users' privacy, their computers' safety and strong disdain for the rights of the user.

Another great example of abuse under DCMA is Apple computer's assertion of control over playlists generated by iTunes for iPods. Apple computer has continually made efforts to stunt the ability of their MP3 player to be used with any software that is not iTunes, and then used DCMA to stunt competition in media playing software. Apple consistently threatens members of the internet community at large that seek to develop applications that work with their hardware.

These industry lobbyists, those in favor of these changes, have shown a consistently heavy handed approach to enforcement. In the example that I outlined above, I show that the industry, and the very same people that lobby for this enforcement body are not in favor of their consumers rights. And it is with this that I urge those involved in the decision making process to consider all arguments made by their side carefully.

I support authors' rights to own their content, but I also want this to be done in a

way that does not impede my ability to use the content that I own in a way of my choosing. In addition, any further intellectual property enforcement would certainly be a dire violation of my privacy. The rights associated with a particular bit of media should not include the manner in which you use it.

In closing I ask you to consider carefully the implications of any new copyright reforms with regard to the rights of the general populace. And to bear in mind the lengths to which these companies have gone to restrict rights that are otherwise guaranteed. Thus, before expanding existing rules, fix those that are broken, fix the loopholes in the digital millenium copyright act that permit companies like Apple and Sony to abuse anyone that seeks to innovate. The United States is great because of innovation, don't take steps that will stagnate that or we will fall behind in technology.

Thank you,

Zach Stein