

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Comments on the Joint Strategic Plan  
**Date:** Thursday, March 18, 2010 5:02:02 PM

---

Victoria Espinel  
Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator  
Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
Filed via email

Dear Ms. Espinel:

Any strategic plans for enforcement of intellectual property should measure all of the costs and benefits involved. Enforcement has its own costs to citizens and consumers, especially when legal uses of copyrighted works can be mistaken for infringement. We've collectively spent billions over the past several decades putting in place computer, networking and telecommunications systems that serve to "promote the progress of science and the useful arts" to degrees James Madison never envisioned. Any strategic plans for enforcement of intellectual property should weigh the economic and social costs of restricting the capacity of our investment.

The Joint Strategic Plan should carefully examine the basis for claims of losses due to infringement, and measure credible accounts of those losses against all of the consequences of proposed enforcement measures, good and bad. Claims of losses due to infringement should be limited to actual direct losses suffered and should not include any losses calculated by assuming that infringement takes place in inverse proportion to legitimate purchases.

Measures like cutting off Internet access in response to alleged copyright infringement can do more harm than good. Internet connections are not merely entertainment or luxuries; they provide vital communication links, often including basic phone service. This is even more clearly unfair in cases where users are falsely or mistakenly accused.

Internet service providers should not be required or asked to violate users' privacy in the name of copyright enforcement beyond the scope of the law. Efforts to require or recommend that ISPs inspect users' communications should not be part of the Joint Strategic Plan.

The anti-circumvention provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act can criminalize users who are simply trying to make legal uses of the media they have bought. Breaking digital locks on media should not be a crime unless they are being broken for illegal purposes. The government should not spend its resources targeting circumventions for legitimate purposes.

Any plans or agreements on IP enforcement, like the proposed Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) should be made open and transparent. In dealing with questions of copyright and the Internet, too much is at stake for our country's laws and policies to be made out of the public eye.

Sincerely,

John Wilcox  
Arlington, Virginia