

Class of works concerned: CDs using Microsoft proprietary DRM to allow access to content.

Argument: Specifically, to access music content on cds from non-Microsoft computers and players. Most current copy protection schemes on CDs allow access to the content in .wma format for use on your computer or digital music player, a windows proprietary format. Since wma format is a Microsoft proprietary audio format, computers are required to have windows media player to access the audio content. Also, digital audio players not "authorized" (for lack of a better word) by Microsoft are not able to use the audio from the cd. In this case, many users of non-windows players (Apple iPods, Mac computers, Linux computers) are circumventing the DRM software, so that they can access the music on their player of choice. Recording companies must provide access to this content in a more universal format. Providing a Microsoft proprietary format as the only legal digital format gives Microsoft a monopoly on digital audio, which is clearly unacceptable. Use of any proprietary format limits the type of player that can be legally used to access the audio content.