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* I respectfully request that the identifying information above not be used by any party for any commercial purpose whatsoever. Thank you.

David O. Carson
General Counsel, Copyright GC/I&R
P.O. Box 70400
Southwest Station
Washington, DC 20024

By e-mail: 1201@loc.gov
Comments on 17 USC Section 1201(a)(1), Digital Millennium Copyright Act

Dear Mr. Carson:

By my interpretation, Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DCMA) places unacceptable restraints on fair use of copyrighted works, and should be stricken in its entirety.

It is not the place of copyright holders to dictate how anyone may access a copyrighted work once a copy of that work has been fairly, legally acquired. No book publisher has the right to dictate under what circumstances you may read a book you purchase. The simple act of making a machine-readable edition of the same work does not change this condition. Once you legally purchase the right to access a work, you should be able to access that work by whatever means and circumstances you wish.

Furthermore, DCMA Section 1201.(2) injuriously bars people from accessing property they lawfully own. It is akin to outlawing the manufacture and sale of steel bolt cutters. The existing statutes are sufficient to punish burglars and people who traffic in illegally copied works. To criminalize the manufacture or possession of tools that access secured property in a frivolous and egregious violation of the rights of users with legitimate purposes. It is every bit as ridiculous as banning automobiles that are capable of changing lanes without signaling.

Sincerely,
Robert Rhode