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To Whom It May Concern:

I'm glad to see that the Copyright Office is seeking public opinion on the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Rather than protecting the rights of copyright holders, this law harms consumers and retards the development of technology and creative works. If left on the books it will allow a few large corporations to control most of our digital media.

This has already started to happen within the DVD industry. Linux programmers, who wanted to be able to watch DVDs on their computers began to write their own open DVD player. One would think that the movie industry would encourage this. It opens up their product to new markets at no cost to them. Instead, the MPAA is calling these people pirates and using the DMCA to sue people who even *link* to the software.

DVDs are encrypted and must be decrypted to be viewed. Having an open DVD player means that anyone can decrypt a DVD. The DVD industry claims that having giving consumers this ability will increase piracy. The ability to decrypt the data for playback does not facilitate copying or electronic transfer of DVDs. It still takes 300 hours to send a DVD movie over a modem regardless of whether or not it is encrypted. Decryption is not even necessary for copying. DVDs are digital media and therefore can be duplicated by making an exact bit by bit copy without knowledge of what those bits mean. DVDs were pirated on a large scale in Asia for years (and still are), without knowledge of the encryption scheme.

The only purpose that the industry can have in preventing the spread of this software is to maintain a monopoly over DVD players and content. In order to produce a DVD or a DVD player, one must currently licence the encryption scheme. Now that the encryption method has become public knowledge, anyone can create DVD players or DVD content. Corporations are attempting to use the DMCA to maintain their control over related markets.

Clearly, the DMCA was not intended to do this. Rather than protecting copyright interests, it is protecting a monopoly on a digital movies.

If the DMCA remains on the books, corporations will continue to create and maintain monopolies over various forms of electronic media stifling creativity and the advance of technology. As a consumer and a believer in the free market, I do not want to see this happen.

Sincerely,

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