

Section 1201 Exemptions to Prohibition Against Circumvention of Technological Measures Protecting Copyrighted Works

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The current state of DRM protected content being sold by copyright holders is a strongly anti-consumer practice. It encourages selling the same content multiple times when consumers discover DRM is tied to a single physical device or platform and they decide to change platforms and are no longer able to access previously purchased content.

The content and the platform should be independent. As a consumer I should be able to purchase content once and format shift it to whatever device I prefer to consume the content on. The Copyright Act of 1968 made format shifting legal, and overreaching copyright owners tried to roll back this freedom in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Platform locking is frustrating and only serves to attempt to keep consumers locked into a single platform. It has the unintended consequence of also making it difficult to preserve content for future generations when the developers of the DRM solution used to protect content either convert to an updated version of the DRM solution, or go out of business altogether.

Copyright owners state this is to prevent sharing and piracy, but DRM has done nothing to stop piracy. RIAA eventually realized this fact and now the majority of digital music is DRM free and can be format shifted by consumers with ease. Other digital content such as ebooks, movies, TV, and comic books should also gain an exemption for format shifting.

I ask that legal exceptions be made for consumers to remove DRM from all digital content without repercussion. Purchased content shouldn't be locked into a single platform. Consumers should have the freedom to view content wherever they choose, and to migrate content to newer devices and platforms as they become available.

Thank you,

Jeremy Putnam

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