

To: David O. Carson

From: Benjamin "Gonzo" Granzau

Subject: Comment on DMCA and the MPAA's actions

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There are several major points that should be made concerning the actions of the MPAA in relation to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

1. The DMCA protects digital media from being copied. DVD's do not have to be decrypted to be copied. They can be played on any registered player that the MPAA has approved with an encryption code. Now, since the DVD encryption is proprietary to prevent just anyone making DVD players, maybe this breaches the law were this done to play DVD's on illegal hardware.
2. They did not release an encryption code for an operating system called Linux, an operating system that was written by one person and supported by thousands. This group has always been a 'do it yourself' group, and hence, one person within the group wrote their own decryption, allowing Linux to play the DVD's. Their intent was to allow their DVD drives play movies. These drives are already licensed to play DVD's by the MPAA. Hence, the end result is that these users already had the proper hardware (both a DVD player for which the MPAA got their fee, and the disk from which the data came from). Therefore, the MPAA got their money from the person doing the copying.
3. The MPAA's fear of the data being released on the network is irrational considering that DVD's can be copied, still encrypted, by any DVD player. And it can still be distributed, encrypted, over the network. And then any licensed DVD player can read the encrypted stream and still play it. But once again, the member's original intent was simply to play their DVD's on a platform that had the required hardware.

This is another example of a large corporation attacking the individual through the courts. When considering 'why' this was released, realized the intent was quite benign, people were just trying to do something a Microsoft product was allowed to do. It effectively blocks all other OS's out of the market place by not allowing them to play DVD's.

I will continue to buy DVD's, as I enjoy their quality and content, despite the MPAA's poor judgement. But I think it is a miscarriage of justice when people are not allowed to innovate and their ideas are suppressed. This path leads to a suppression of ideas, to stagnation, and the death of our society, just to protect the large corporation's pocketbooks at the expense of the individual.

Best of luck to you, David, in sorting out this mess that has been handed to you.

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