

From bball@tux.org Sun Feb 6 11:25:20 2000
Date: Fri, 21 Jan 2000 17:08:03 -0500 (EST)
From: William Ball <bball@tux.org>
To: 1201@loc.gov
Subject: Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection

To Whom It May Concern:

As a citizen, voter, taxpayer, and retired military officer, I resent any abridging of my rights to do whatever I please with any multimedia or electronic content I have purchased...

As an example, when I fell in love with my wife when we were first dating, I made a cassette tape of my favorite love songs - a compilation of songs from audio CDs I had purchased....

I gave her the cassette tape and she continues to use it today, two years later, listening to the tape on the way to work in her car.

Should I be prosecuted?

If I want to create or download software to enable me to copy the contents of a DVD CD-ROM to a hard drive, I will. If I do not have the ability to write such software, I will seek out the software, and download from the software from overseas sites at other countries that do not have the U.S.'s insidious laws pandering to moneyed interests such as the Recording Industry Association of America or the Motion Picture Association of America.

I do, in fact, possess such software, and the required equipment. Any efforts by the entertainment industry's lobbyists and the federal, state, or local government to suppress the creation, distribution, or use of open source software in any form (algorithms, text, or machine language) is a violation of my civil rights and intellectual freedom.

Sincerely,

billy ball
2508C S. Walter Reed Drive
Arlington, Va. 22206
(703) 820-7442
bball@tux.org
<http://www.tux.org/~bball/>

Author,
Sams Teach Yourself Linux in 24 Hours
Sams Teach Yourself SuSE Linux in 24 Hours
Que's Using Linux
Sams How to Use Linux
Sams Red Hat Linux Unleashed
Sams Red Hat Linux 6 Unleashed
Sams SuSE Linux Unleashed