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In this document I will attempt to sum up my involvement as it pertains to the DMCA as well as the effect it has had on me.

Towards the end of December I read about the MPAA and their legal actions against several Web sites I read frequently (most notably, www.slashdot.org and www.2600.com). The initial hearing for a TRO was quite alarming to me. For one organization to try and silence a large group of individuals from discussing a very real issue is unacceptable. I felt compelled to protest this action. I subsequently posted a mirror to the DeCSS program and the CSS source.

I am a student and employee at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. I had been employed at UWM for 2.5 years. I worked as a supervisor of programming with Student Technology Services. On February 10 I received a call from my student manager who requested I meet with her immediately. The MPAA sent a letter stating my Web page was in violation of 17 U.S.C. 1201 (a)(2)(3). My employer, Information and Media Technology, deleted my web page, impounded my student email account, fired me and then notified me. Things were done in that order. I was terminated from my student job after 2.5 years of service with no thought given to tenure or contribution to the organization.

To explain how the DMCA has affected me, I'd say it has done nothing but hurt me. The MPAA's legal case against several other individuals (my web site was not listed in any court document) has left me unemployed. My right to protest things I feel to be unjust (as a student) was dissolved because I am part of an expanding organization that wishes to avoid bad press. I was fired without due process because of the possibility of bad press (the exit process that is customary in STS was not granted to me).

I do not know how well the above text applies to your inquiry concerning DMCA. I hope you find my submission valuable.

Sincerely,
Zachary Karpinski