

Hi,

Here is my opinions on the DMCA and the DVD/DeCSS issues and some reasons why they may reflect upon me living in Australia.

If the DeCSS issue goes the way that the MPAA hopes, it will be likely that the Australian law will follow suit, this is why it will be relavent to me.

Already on our ISP, there are companies advertising services to put our own videos (ie: Family Christmas Party, Wedding) onto DVD. The DMCA laws mean to copy and/or play 'our own copyrighted' DVD will be a criminal offence if we don't play 'our own copyrighted' DVD on a player 'they designate'. So, it would be illegal for me to play my wedding DVD on my Amiga computer because no-one wants to pay MPAA a licence to write a DVD player for my Amiga.

Already we can use VCDs (Video CDs) to record TV programs on 'instead' of VHS tapes in the 'same' way as VHS tapes of course by following the same 'fair usage' laws that permit us to record TV programs for later viewing. Soon we will probably have the facilities to record our TV programs onto DVD also, should we be restricted from re-recording our favourite TV program (for our own use) in case our original recording got damaged? Why should just the fact that the media we are recording on be called a 'dvd' we are not able to adhere to the 'same' fair usage laws as every other media?

A DVD is a medium for storing information whether it is audio, pictures, video, computer data or text - the MPAA should not be able to dictate how we use this medium - they should only be able to try enforce breaches of copyright for 'their own' copyrighted material. A DVD in this respect is no different than a punchcard, a CD, a floppy disc, a mini-disc, a zip disc, a magnetic tape... You 'can' store digital information on a punch card if you really wanted however impractical it is...

What right does a company in US to prevent me from watching an 'original' DVD that I purchased say from a HK film company (ie: Media Asia 'Mei Ah') from watching on my DVD player in Australia.

Regards

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