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Dear Sirs or Madams of The Copyright Office,

This comes to you in regards to the DMCA and the DVD/DeCSS issue which has recently come to your attention. To state that the cracking of the DVD encryption code allows people to copy DVDs (which, as I understand it, is the argument that has been put forward) is fallacious. Any person who has access to the proper hardware (which, I may say, very few people have access to) may make a copy of a DVD without access to the encryption code. I think this is best explained as follows...

“Look, it's like this - a DVD Movie is basically just a message [the movie] written in secret code on a piece of paper. To read the message [watch the movie,] you need a secret decoder ring. To be a pirate, you need a photocopier, but you don't need a decoder ring because you don't really care what the secret message is, as long as your photocopier makes nice, crisp copies that your client (who has a decoder ring) can read. All these guys did was make a decoder ring that works under Linux, because all the commercial decoder rings only run on Windows [or standalone DVD players.]”

That simple explanation was found on a message board
(<http://www.opendvd.org/forum/showpost.pl?Board=opendvd&Number=119&page=0&view=collapsed&sb=5>) at <http://www.opendvd.org>.

What should be in question here is whether or not industries have the right to deprive “alternative” operating system users the right to watch DVD movies. Currently only the Macintosh and Windows systems have the software available to decode and watch these movies. All of that software is 100% legal. So why has this software not been translated to Linux or other “alternative” systems? Simply because the industry does not believe that they could make a profit by creating software for such platforms.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this and other letters concerning this topic. It is not an easy decision to make, I am sure, but I am sure that you are more than capable of handling it justly. Since I am sure that you have been given the propaganda of the movie industry, it should be only fair that you view some propaganda of the other side. I highly recommend that you read through the notes at www.opendvd.org/journalists.html. Granted, they are biased. But I highly doubt that they are as biased as some other arguments that you have seen. Good luck.

As Always,
Andrew F. Vincent