

To Whom It May Concern:

Please, I BEG you, do NOT take away yet more of the freedom that our forefathers tried to give to us in the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. If I pay money for the rights to something (like a DVD) I have **the rights to it!** I am allowed to watch it in any way, shape, or form that I see fit. If I want to decrypt the video and back it up to DAT tape, I am completely within my rights (assuming I keep the tape for backup and archival purposes only). I am allowed to watch the video on any platform I choose, not just the giant beast of Microsoft (for which 99.9% of all DVD players are written – the rest are for MacOS). I am allowed freedom of “religion” – religion in this case being the holy war amongst operating systems and free/commercial software.

Please get rid of these crazy acts like the DMCA and stop pressing the DeCSS issue. These concepts simply make a mockery of the American system – we “found” ourselves on one concept yet then renege said concept. What does that say about the US?

The money the Clinton administration is putting toward this sort of silliness (money to the NSA for increased monitoring of the Internet, etc) is being grossly wasted. As a US taxpayer, I feel that we should be using the money to subsidize higher bandwidth paths to the average US home, allowing the “digital age” to truly begin. It may create a complete upheaval of the US business scene as we know it – and that is precisely why these antiquated behemoths are doing everything they can think of to stop this sort of revolution. If you were rolling in dough, would you want it all to suddenly change? I didn't think so.

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