

Jeremy Tocher
8 Bluff View Ct.
Miller Place, NY 11764
tocher@portjeff.net

Even though I do not use Linux as my primary operating system, I can definitely vouch for the legality of a tool such as DeCSS, and the illegality of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, or portions of it anyways. The simple ability to have complete control of your own items is something I hold key, to tinker and to mangle with something you own. People have the right to know how DVDs work to be able to make their home DVD players, to write software for an alternative operating system, and things of that nature. The thing is - where does a standard become open and where should it be closed. If I write proprietary software for proprietary software clients, with a system of encryption for security measures, it seems logical that any measure to tamper with that security should be illegal. We can equate that to trying to break into a new security system on someone's house or business. However, with a mass consumer appliance, nothing should be controlled. I have generally been against royalty fees even, but I can at least understand that, however, no company or group of companies should be able to control the lock on the DVDs that all consumers purchase. Should a third party be interested in writing an interesting DVD reading program for any platform (even windows which already has other decoders) they should have that available. The mere act of encryption should not be on the client side. I don't want to support the "lower prices of DVDs" issue because they can charge what they want. I don't know the answer, I don't think anyone does, but I don't know if there is any proven way to protect an artist's work. Perhaps some form of security that does not allow any consumer-created DVD to play in a commercial player, that is acceptable and understandable. Indeed people will be able to play consumer made DVDs on a PC, but that is not widespread, your general citizen would still get movies through legal channels. Note, I don't have any pirated software or illegal mp3s (you have my address, come check) and I mainly feel for the right of the consumer. Also, no law should be designed where a 16 year old is questioned for hours and hours and has his possessions confiscated, and for his father to be involved as well.