Dear Copyright Office,

The Library of Congress should exempt all classes of copyright works from the prohibition of circumvention of access controls due to the adverse affect on users of alternative operating systems, United States citizens residing outside the United States, and multilingual or non-English speaking U.S. residents.

For all classes of works, non-infringing use of the copyrighted materials by users of alternative operating systems would be adversely affected by dependence on certain operating systems. Specific examples would be the inability to read a book, view a graphic, play a DVD, or listen to music that is protected by software which only runs on Windows by users of MacOs, Linux, Solaris, or BeOs. The dependence on specific language support also often makes this a problem in different language versions of the same operating system, so a Japanese language copyrighted work with a Japanese language specific protection program may not be installable or operable in the English version Windows. The adverse effect is the requirement to purchase and install an otherwise unneeded operating system.

For many classes of works, games and DVDs being the prime examples, the use of region codes in the protection scheme dissallows access by game machines and players made for differing countries. Specifically, a DVD purchased in the United States is not playable on a DVD player manufactured for use in Japan, and a DVD purchased in Japan is not playable on a DVD player manufactured for use in the United States. The end result is that by design non-infringing use of the copyright material is not possible without unreasonable hardware expenditures, namely purchase of a player or game console for each region.
Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Shaun Lawson
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