

Dear Copyright Office c/o Davis O. Carson, General Counsel:

I am writing this letter to provide you with some disinterested thoughts from a Technical Professional in regards to the DMCA and DVD/DeCSS issue.

I believe that the current flurry of lawsuits aimed at the DeCSS program, its authors, and sites that are offering DeCSS (for Free!) is a massive waste of government resources and a total disregard for the spirit of the Constitution of the United States of America. I see this issue as a “wishy-washy” attitude of the Non-technical members of our government bowing down to the corporate dollar without regards for the deeper and richly more important issues our founding fathers wrote down for us over 200 years ago – free speech, free association, and the right of assembly (even virtual assembly).

Case in point... the earliest industrial revolution in this country can be directly traced back to the spread of textile processing technologies that an immigrant brought with him. The British government at the time was furious because the spread of this technology threatened the monopoly the British had held onto too for too long. The long term, unforeseeable benefits which this technology brought, were care, comfort, and affordable clothing and other consumer goods and not the anarchy hyped by the press of the time.

While I am not suggesting that (intellectual property) theft is a viable economic vehicle, I am suggesting that we cannot be too quick to listen to the special interest groups who are really only worried about themselves. Ultimately, the more people who know more things, the better off the whole world, and that is a principle I am sure our Founding Fathers wholeheartedly believed in.

This particular technology was “broken” by a child (albeit a Genius but a child nonetheless). The problem isn’t the program or even what it is being used for (which is impossible to imagine) but that a member of the DVD corporate establishment didn’t honor their own internal agreement regarding the safe keeping and proper implementation of their own program. The real villain is Xing and they should be the sole ones to bare the brunt of litigation and censure since their mishandling of the program and licensing agreements ALLOWED the “breaking” of the DVD code. The DVD Corporate Community didn’t want their monopoly broken and seem totally hostile towards the Open Source Community – who only wanted a program to run the movies on their computers - no sinister hidden agenda. Since the corporate powers couldn’t find a ready source of revenue from this group they now seem bent on crushing the Freeware movement at the expense of personal liberty.

I can't say what the end result of this dialog will be, or where to technology will take us, but I feel safe in saying that the long term results will benefit the whole world and not a select few fat cats who got lazy until it was too late.

Thank you for taking the time to read letter. I trust and hope that you will have the wisdom and insight to see through the corporate smoke and mirrors and concentrate on existing laws and policies and leave the simple man with simple laws that he can carry in his heart instead of a slew of lawyers chained to his computer.

With warmest Regards,

Curtis A. Dougherty  
Concerned Citizen / Abused Consumer  
201 Laguna Vista Dr. "D", Austin, Tx. 78746  
512-327-0980  
dubadubaduba@hotmail.com