

Comment on Digital Millenium Copyright Act

Regarding the DMCA, reverse engineering of copy protection schemes for the purpose of inter-operability **MUST** be protected. Fair use of copyright material must include the ability to use and copy the copyright material for personal use. If I have purchased copyright material my right to use this material with whatever apparatus I choose must not be limited. Prevention of infringement is the intent, not additional limitations on fair use.

The recent DeCSS lawsuits go clearly beyond the limitations I have set forth. The mere fact that one may possess the means to make copies does not in itself represent infringement. Allowing the copyright holder to restrict use of his works by various encryption schemes would unacceptably increase the rights of the copyright holders to the detriment of legitimate licensees.

Please re-affirm the importance of fair use by strongly supporting the right of individuals and groups to reverse engineer content scrambling schemes and other copy protection for use legitimate licensees of copyright materials.

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