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To whom it may concern:

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Public Law 105-304 (1998), would almost certainly have a strongly deleterious effect on the future of computer access to digital audio and video technology:

- 1) If computer hardware and software manufacturers cooperate with video/audio recorder manufacturers with these rules in place, it will give too much leverage to the recording industry, allowing a non-computer industry to dictate software and hardware standards to the very companies that are supposed to engineer those standards. This will almost certainly result in computers that malfunction more often when equipped with digital recording and playback devices. Desktop computers and software are instrumental for almost all independent video and audio production; it is these very devices that
- 2) If computer hardware and software manufacturers do NOT cooperate, then computers will not have legal or effective access to new or existing digital recording technologies, which many small production companies depend on for editing and production.

Before attempting to legislate such issues, the computer and video/audio recording industries must FIRST agree on effective, non-harmful standards that both protect the interests of the recording industry AND protect both electronics consumers AND home and professional users of computer technology.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jon Richardson